

THE Library Journal

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CHIEFLY DEVOTED TO

Library Economy and Bibliography

VOL. 13. No. 5.

MAY, 1888.

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NEW YORK : PUBLICATION OFFICE, FRANKLIN SQUARE (330 Pearl Street).

LONDON : TRÜBNER & Co., 57 and 59 Ludgate Hill.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, \$5.00.

MONTHLY NUMBERS, 50 CTS.

Price to Europe, or countries in the Union, 20s. per annum : single numbers, 2s.

Entered at the Post-Office at New York, N. Y., as second-class matter.

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MEMBER AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

VOL. 13.

MAY, 1888.

No. 5.

C: A. CUTTER, R: R. BOWKER, *Editors.*

THE failure of the Library Bureau is of course a chief topic of interest in library circles. We gave last month a brief statement of the bare facts in the case, and gladly give place in this issue to a statement from Mr. Dewey, representing his view of the history of the Bureau and its predecessors, and stating his plans for the future. Since the practical work of furnishing library supplies of the best class at the lowest possible price was taken up by the Coöperation Committee at the start of the Association, the work organized by Mr. Dewey, under its successive titles, has been of the greatest value to those libraries which have taken advantage of the facilities thus offered. If the saving of time and thought to librarians, and of actual money to the libraries which have relied upon the Bureau for supplies, could be counted up, and a fair half of it paid over to the Bureau, there would be, we fancy, a very handsome dividend instead of a loss. A difficulty which has been inherent in the business, we judge, from the outset, is that the margin of profit on the goods actually sold was put so low as not to cover the risk and loss on goods of slow sale which had to be kept in stock and on others which did not meet an actual library demand. In other words, the Bureau has been conducting valuable experiments for the benefit of the libraries at the cost of those who were at its back. Mr. Davidson, who has conducted the Bureau for the past five years, is probably at fault chiefly in accepting a system which did not furnish sufficient margin of profits for a sound commercial basis, and this system came undoubtedly from Mr. Dewey's desire to have the Bureau ready to supply the best goods at the lowest price, and to supersede any less good article in stock by the better and improved article. Another reason for recent lack of success has been more or less failure to supply library orders with promptness and accuracy, due in part undoubtedly to financial worries and distractions.

If the Library Bureau is reorganized in full view of the actual experiences of the past, instead of rose-colored expectancy, and founded on a sound business basis, there ought to be a future

of profit as well as of service for it. It is stated that its recent business has been at the rate of \$36,000 per year, and if it can start up again unencumbered by debts or by stock put at a valuation beyond the possibilities of realizing upon it, there should be abundant opportunity for success under good management. We deal outspokenly with this matter, since if the business of the Bureau is reorganized, its permanent success will doubtless depend upon these conditions, and its permanent success is most important to the library interest. If these conditions were assured, it would actually pay the libraries, due precautions being taken as to the limitation of liability, to take up the work as a coöperative one. Whatever criticism there may be upon the recent or earlier management of the Bureau, the library profession owe very hearty thanks to the two men who have been chiefly responsible for building up this important piece of machinery for the benefit of the libraries, and we feel certain that as the work of the Bureau becomes better and better known its business is sure to increase.

WE give elsewhere some extracts from the annual report of the Bureau of the Interior Department, under the charge of J. G. Ames, whose work is of such importance to our libraries. In the report is an interesting list of the libraries which have sent and received volumes of Government publications to fill gaps in sets, on the admirable plan devised and so successfully carried out by Mr. Ames. He has put the whole library system of the country under great obligations to him for this work, and we are glad to note that he is extending it so as to cover publications not hitherto on his lists. It is a pity that Congress has not yet taken any action to correct the minor evils of our present Government publication system, as the confusing cross-titling of volumes, the delay in furnishing bound copies to the Government depositories, and the failure of any practical means to enable the public to purchase documents. Of course a general reform in the whole scheme of Government publications is most desirable, and it is to be hoped this will be undertaken when weightier matters are decided. Meanwhile, Congress may fairly be asked to give attention to simple measures which will better

the existing methods, and every librarian should put in a word with his Senator or Congressman as he gets a chance in this direction.

THIS seems to be rather a good year for indexes. The five-yearly Poole's Index is coming—coming—coming, and the untiring Mr. Fletcher, besides his work in finishing this and in laying out the work of the Essay Index, has completed an Author Index to the Index to Periodicals for 1887. A new feature, we may note, has been added to the Coöperative Index itself, in the advertising department of contents of periodicals, which we trust the publishers will support, as it will be of convenience and help in many directions. Mr. Galloupe, as announced elsewhere, proposes to supplement Poole with an index to engineering articles, 1883-7, which will be very valuable and which should find success. We heartily trust that Mr. Cushing's index ofonyms may also not fail of success.

THE "civil service reform" idea, of keeping people who do good work in their places "during good behavior," instead of turning them out to make way for political favorites or to accomplish political ends, has taken strong hold on the library profession. According to all evidence so far received, the removal of Mrs. Maxwell from the Iowa State Library is a flagrant case of the abuse against which there has been such effective protest of late years. We trust, accordingly, that the library profession will make itself felt in remonstrance, and as there is to be no regular Conference this year this must be done in a personal way—perhaps as well as any by addressing Mrs. Maxwell herself. It will never do, of course, for the Library Association to become a close corporation or a mutual admiration society, chiefly anxious to keep its members in desirable places or to prevent new-comers from entering the library profession, but the fear of misrepresentation in this direction should not prevent librarians who are entitled to speak from speaking out now. Mrs. Maxwell has held a high place among State librarians, and we cannot learn that her removal is based on any criticism of her work. If it is, and if the criticism is well founded, we should not have a word to say. In our present lights, we cannot but speak strongly in protest. Experience in library work, and in a particular library, is of first importance to the people who pay a librarian's salary, and we trust the people of the State of Iowa, whom Mrs. Maxwell has so faithfully served, will see that this is not permanently lost to them.

WE have asked Mr. Crunden to send us some notes of the weather in St. Louis, early in May, so that members of the Association might know what to expect next year. His first instalment would be favorable to choosing some week of April rather than the first in May, if the weather were always the same from year to year. At any rate it will show that we cannot go there without thick clothing.

Communications.

ST. LOUIS WEATHER AND CROP NOTES.

MAY DAY! Rainy and cold, fires and overcoats to-day (and yesterday) following several weeks mild weather. Fruit trees have dropped their blossoms. Lilacs in full bloom, snowballs out in few days, maples nearly in full leaf, elms, poplars, etc., half out, farmers bringing in first crop of green hay, spring chickens rather small, eggs "a bit" a dozen and strawberries 20 c. a box.

"Jes' so with poets: wut they've airly read
Gits kind o' worked into their heart and head.

* * * * *

This makes 'em think our fust of May is May,
Which 'tain't, for all the almanicks can say."

On six days the thermometer rose above 80°, and on two days nearly reached 90°. I am inclined to think, in view of the New Orleans trip, that the middle of April will be the best time, tho' St. Louis will show best about May 1-10. Vegetation this season is a little backward. I think it will, on the whole, be a greater treat for Northern and Eastern people to leave their homes while still cold and barren and see the various changes between there and New Orleans. Something depends on the season. I remember one spring, about 8 or 10 years ago, when the leaves made good showing as early as Feb. 26. That, of course, was extraordinary. Can we not leave the fixing of the exact date till we have some indication of the character of the season, or is it best to settle it now and take our chances?

My notes yesterday require one amendment; viz., lilacs were past full bloom, dropping off to-day (May 2). Snowballs turning white, will be out full to-morrow or next day. F. M. C.

Mr. Crunden also encloses the weather report for St. Louis for April, 1888, from which it appears that the mean temperature was 58.7; the highest 87.5 on the 1st; the lowest 34.8 on the 20th; the monthly range being thus 52.7. The greatest daily range was 33.4; the least 12.2; and the mean 22.1. The mean temperature of April in previous years was in 1871, 60.5; 1872, 57.3; 1873, 51.0; 1874, 47.3; 1875, 52.2; 1876, 57.2; 1877, 54.3; 1878, 61.3; 1879, 54.7; 1880, 57.2; 1881, 50.6; 1882, 57.6; 1883, 50.3; 1884, 53.4; 1885, 56.4; 1886, 50.1; 1887, 60.7. The mean daily relative humidity in April, 1888, was 53, the prevailing winds S. E. with 44 miles as the highest velocity; rain fell on the 9th (1.33 inches), 29th (.24) and 30th (.31), in all 1.88 inches. There was a light frost on the 20th.

TWO CATALOGS.

BY MISS H. E. GREEN.

THE objects of a library catalog are two : to give, in as simple a form as is compatible with the conveying of all necessary information, an account of the books which the library possesses ; and to make it easy for the average frequenter of the library to find the book he wants. The relative importance of these two objects (if one in to overbalance the other, which is not at all necessary) must be determined by the nature of the library and consequently of its frequenters. How far these two requisites are attained by the two carefully prepared and well-printed catalogs before us, I have now to consider.¹

The Classified catalog of the Fitchburg Public Library, prepared by Mr. G. W. Cole, in an octavo volume of 758 pages, comprises, according to the title-page, an author and title catalogue, a subject catalogue, and a subject-index made necessary by the complicated, not to say cumbrous, system of classification. I must take some exception to the expression *subject catalog* as applied to this part of the book. It is the classification scheme of the Fitchburg Library, arranged numerically as to classes, with an index to the same ; excellent for the use of the catalogers and classifiers of that library ; but *not* a subject catalog, in the strict sense of the words, which I take to mean a list where one can find the book he wants by turning to the subject or class of subjects treated of. It is an understood fact that no classifier ever *quite* agrees with any one else's classification, but I question whether it would be easy for even an expert to find a book on a given subject in this

classification without the index, which although an absolute necessity to this system of cataloging, must, with the much greater amount of work inseparable from the classification system, increase the labor and expense of preparing sufficiently to make a simpler system much more desirable for all libraries whose financial resources are limited. I refrain from criticising the details of this classification to any great degree, as a matter on which there must always be different opinions ; but I feel called upon to deprecate in the most decided manner the invidious distinction made in the department "Literature" between Principal and Minor Authors. What German would see with indifference La Motte Fouqué and the Countess Hahn-Hahn among the elect, while Goethe and Fritz Reuter take a second place (p. 592), or what educated American would exalt Sylvester Judd and Herman Melville to the first rank, while Irving, Longfellow, Miss Sedgwick, and E. E. Hale are left among the *minors* (p. 555)? If these distinctions are made on any other ground than that of merit, it should be explained, that we may not suspect the compiler of indulging his personal tastes at the expense of the success of his work as a means of education—and every well-made library catalog is more or less an educator.

The author and title-references are well and carefully made, with a few lapses, where perhaps only the proof-reader is at fault. For instance, under Argles, M. (*pseud.* The Duchess) we find the entry—"Portia, and other tales," the contents being given ; but the contents are those of Mrs. Cowden Clarke's volume of "The girlhood of Shakespeare's heroines," which contains "Portia the heiress of Belmont," "Lady Macbeth," and others ; no entry for this being found under Mrs. Cowden Clarke's name. If I do not mistake the title of The Duchess's novel is "Portia, or by passions rocked," a very different character from the serene and stately heiress of Belmont.

I might also criticise the practice of giving full entries under names of editors and translators, many of them utterly insignificant, which must enormously increase the labor and expense both of preparation and printing, without materially adding to the usefulness of the catalog.

In short, while fully appreciating the care and pains bestowed upon this catalog, and with all due respect for this system, and effort to look at it from another point of view, I can but ex-

¹ Classified catalogues of the Public Library of Fitchburg, Mass., comprising author and title catalogue, subject catalogue, and subject index, compiled by G. Watson Cole. Fitchburg, 1886. 14 + 758 p. l. o.

A very carefully prepared and well-printed catalog. Brief titles, Dewey class marks and month abbreviations, Cutter author-marks and name abbreviations, A. L. A. abbreviations. X is used for the author-mark when the book is anonymous. "R. (Reference) preceding the class number indicates that the work cannot be taken from the library, J (juvenile) before the book-number that it will prove of interest to young readers." "Titles which in themselves suggest the *subject* of the book have been omitted" from the title catalog. The compiler says : "It was done very rapidly, only 13 months being consumed in the whole. The work involved a complete rearrangement of the library, the classification and renumbering of every book, the preparation of the card catalog, and the labor of conducting the catalog through the press." The book certainly does credit to its rapid execution.

Catalogue of the library of the Union League of New York compiled by Ellsworth Totten, librarian. n. p., 1886. 2 l. + 451 p. l. o.

press the honest opinion that it is by no means our ideal; our ideal, where, instead of first looking through an index to find the subject we want, and then struggling through the classification to find the proper number, on the way having our feelings harrowed up by seeing Medicine put among the Useful Arts, and Horse-racing among the Fine Arts, we simply turn to the subject we want in its alphabetical place, and there find everything which has been written on that subject, with guide-references to every other kindred one. And I must think that, in the millennium, this system, as combining the greatest amount of practical use with the least expenditure of time and labor, will commend itself to every right-minded librarian.

In considering the second work, the Catalogue of the Union League Club, New York, prepared by Mr. E. Totten, I am reminded of the experience of a certain professional cataloger, who, having made, much to her own satisfaction, and on the most simply scientific principles, a card catalog of a library containing neither fiction, poetry, nor drama for a certain club, the members of which should belong especially to the class of educated men, discovered that it was proposed by the officials to make a book catalog of entries under the first word of the title, no matter what it was; so that, as the superintendent said, "gentlemen could see what there was in the library."

If the object of a catalog is to show what the library contains with the slightest possible mental effort to the searcher, this may be said to have fulfilled its destiny. The most limited intelligence, if it could read at all, would have no reason for fault-finding with the method of presenting information contained here; but only the most limited intelligence would be satisfied. A more critical examiner might object that it was unnecessary to enter a long string of books under History, as "History of the American Stage," "History of Art," "History of the Bank of New York," "History of Caricature," etc., when the entries were also to be found under the subject and author; and the same in regard to the headings Contributions, Elements, Notes, Proceedings, Text-books, etc. But if a gentleman of the Union League wants Tyndall's "Contributions to Molecular Physics," the effort of considering whether it should be sought under Physics or Molecular Physics must be a trying one; it is of course much easier to look through the list of Contributions at once. The same mental labor-saving method is extended to proper names. The "Life of Edward Lord Herbert" of Cherbury is usually entered under Herbert; but the title-page says

explicitly "Life of Edward," so of course it should be entered under Edward? (by the way, why is it not under Life?) A certain French author is known as Prosper Mérimée; therefore he is to be found under Prosper and nowhere else. I see, however, that in defiance of consistency, Oliver Wendell Holmes is put under Holmes and not under Oliver. The Latin works of T. Hobbes appear under Latin, and the Miscellaneous works of some one else under Miscellaneous. There are now and then inconveniences attending this method; as, for example, in a French work concerning the campaign of 1848-9 in Italy. A person who did not remember the author and knew that it was a question concerning Germany and Italy, might be surprised, and perhaps annoyed, at finding no mention of the book under the names of those countries, and not perhaps perfectly consoled at finding it, if he did find it at all, which seems a little unlikely, under *Eclaircissements*, the first word of the title; but what method has not its inconveniences? I am surprised that the compiler has not kept up the time-honored practice of entering under The and A. Consistency is a jewel.

How long has the Union League Club been in possession of the facts regarding the authorship of the Letters of Junius? It has perversely withheld its knowledge from less well-informed institutions who venture only to enter them under Junius; for it is not to be questioned that so decided an entry as that under Almon, J., without even one of the title references sown broadcast through the book, must rest on sure foundation.

If the Union League Club were not apparently perfectly well able to throw away money on its catalog, it might be suggested that such entries as have been mentioned increase the size and expense of the book by a good deal—we will not say without adding to its usefulness, as who shall estimate the saving in mental exertion to its members? But, leaving that out of the question, the book might have been materially smaller, and still possessed all the characteristics of a useful catalog. The paper and printing are excellent; but the proof-reading might have been more careful. The work bears evidence of care and painstaking, and may be said to be an excellent specimen of its description of catalog, and a good example of how a catalog should not be made. It is worthy to be placed on the shelves consecrated to a certain catalog of the library of the West Point Military Academy, the Newburyport catalog, and other bibliographical gems, dear to the hearts of the profession.

REFERENCE LIST OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES, CATALOGUES, AND REFERENCE LISTS
ON AMERICA.—III.¹

BY PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

ZOOLOGY.

Classed under

General Works.
 Anthropology.
 Mammalogy.
 Ornithology.
 Herpetology.
 Ichthyology.
 Entomology.
 Crustaceology.
 Molluscology.
 Conchology.

For writings of Scientists, see Individual.

General Works.

AGASSIZ, L., and Strickland, H. E. *Bibliographia Zoologica et Geologica*. London: 1848-54.

B 301

CATALOGUE of the Publications of the U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. Third Edition. Washington: 1879.

302

There are earlier editions, 1874; 1877, and a later one in Ex. Doc., No. 182, 47th Cong., 1st session, Senate.

GILL, T. *Bibliography of Zoology, 1882*, [in Rep. of the Smithsonian Inst. for 1882]. Washington: 1883.

B 303

— — *Bibliography of Zoology, 1883*, [in Rep. of the Smithsonian Inst. for 1883]. Washington: 1884.

B 304

GIRARD, C. *Bibliographia Americana Historico-Naturalis*, for 1851. Washington: 1852.

B 305

Also in *Am. Journal of Science and Art*, XII, p. 1.

KINGSLEY, J. S. *Bibliography of Zoology*, [in *Naturalist's Assistant*, p. 145]. Boston: 1882.

B 305a

MURDOCH, J. *Bibliography of the Marine Invertebrates of Alaska*, [in Rep. of the Inter. Polar Ex. to Point Barrow, p. 136]. Washington: 1885.

B 306

ORBIGNY, A. d'. *Catalogue de livres d'histoire naturelle. Ouvrages et manuscrits relatifs à l'Amérique*. Paris: 1858.

B 307

Anthropology.

BOEMER, G. H. *Index to papers on Anthropology* pub. by the Smithsonian Inst. 1847-1878. Washington: 1881.

B 308

Also in Rep. of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for 1878.

MASON, O. T. *Bibliography of Anthropology*, [in Rep. of the Regents of the Smithsonian Inst. for 1880]. Washington: 1881.

B 309

WAITZ, T. *Literature of American Anthropology*, [in *Anthropologie der Naturvölker*, III]. Leipzig: 1872.

B 310

Mammalogy.

GILL, T. *Bibliography of Mammals*, [in *Arrangement of the Families of Mammals*]. Washington: 1872.

B 311

Also in *Smithsonian Misc. Coll.*, XI.

— — and Coues, E. *Materials for a Bibliography of North American Mammals*. Washington: 1877.

B 312

Also in U. S. Geological Survey of the Territories, XI, p. 951.

Ornithology.

COUES, E. *Bibliography of American Ornithology*, [in *Birds of the North West. Miscellaneous pub. U. S. Geo. Sur., No. 3*]. Washington: 1874.

B 313

— — *Bibliography of American Ornithology*, [in *Bull. U. S. Geol. and Geograph. Survey, No. 6*]. Washington: 1876.

B 314

— — *List of faunal publications relative to N. A. Ornithology*, [in *Birds of the Colorado Valley*, p. 567]. Washington: 1878.

B 315

Herpetology.

LOCKINGTON, W. N. *Review of the progress of North American batrachology, 1880-83*, [in *Am. Naturalist*, XVIII, p. 149].

316

MITCHELL, S. W. *Bibliography of Venomous Snakes*, [in *Researches on Venomous Snakes*]. Washington: 1860.

B 317

Also in *Smithsonian Contrib. to Knowledge*, XII.

Ichthyology.

BEAN, T. H. *A partial Bibliography of the fishes of the Pacific Coast of the U. S. and Alaska, for 1880*, [in *Pro. of the U. S. Nat. Mus.* for 1881]. Washington: 1882.

B 318

GILL, T. *Bibliography of Fishes*, [in *Arrangement of the Families of Fishes*]. Washington: 1872.

B 319

Also in *Smithsonian Misc. Coll.*, XI.

— — *Bibliography of the Fishes of the Pacific Coast of the U. S.* Washington: 1882.

B 320

Also in the *Smithsonian Misc. Coll.*, XXIII.

SMILEY, C. W. *List of published reports of the Fishery Commissioners of the various States of the U. S.*, [in *Bull. U. S. Fish Comm.*, III, p. 85]. Washington: 1884.

B 321

Entomology.

MAN, B. P. *Bibliography of some of the literature concerning destructive insects*, [in *Second Rep. of the U. S. Entomological Commission*]. Washington: 1881.

B 322

PACKARD, A. S. *Bibliography of the Geometrid*

¹ For explanations of arrangement and abbreviations, see February LIBRARY JOURNAL.

Moths of the U. S., [in U. S. Geological Survey of the Territories, X, p. 595]. Washington: 1876. B 323

SACKEN, C. R. O. Bibliography of Diptera, [in Catalogue of the Described Diptera]. Washington: 1878. B 324

Also in Smithsonian Misc. Coll., XVI.

SCUDDER, S. H. Bibliography of Orthoptera, [in Cat. of the Orthoptera of N. A.]. Washington: 1868. B 325

Also in Smithsonian Misc. Coll., VIII.

Crustaceology.

HUXLEY, T. H. Bibliography, [in The Crayfish]. New York: 1881. B 326

Molluscology.

GILL, T. Bibliography of Mollusks, [in Arrangement of the Families of Mollusks]. Washington: 1871. B 327

Also in Smithsonian Misc. Coll., X.

Conchology.

BINNEY, W. G. Bibliography of N. A. Conchology. 2 Parts. Washington: 1863-4. B 328

Also in Smithsonian Miscell. Coll., V. and IX.

TRYON, G. W. American writers on recent Conchology. New York: 1861. B 329

WOODWARD, A. Bibliography of recent and fossil Foraminifera, [in Min. Geological and Natural History Survey, Annual Report, part 5]. St. Paul: 1885. B 330

BOTANY.

General Works.

WATSON, S. Bibliographical Index to North American Botany. Washington: 1878. B 331

Special Work.

FARLOW, W. G., and Trelease, W. List of Works on North American Fungi. Cambridge: 1887. B 332

UNDERWOOD, L. M. D. Bibliography of North American Hepaticæ, [in Bull. Ill. State Lab. of Nat. Hist. II, p. 15]. Chicago: 1884. B 333

WOOD, H. C. Bibliography of Algæ, [in Hist. of Fresh-Water Algæ of N. A.]. Washington: 1872. B 334

Also in Smithsonian Collections, XIX.

MINERALOGY.

Classed under

General Works.

Geology.

Palæontology.

Earthquakes.

General Works.

LIS, R. Classified Index to the Maps in the Publications of the Geological Society of London, 1811-1885. Boston: 1887. R 335

Also in Bull. Boston Pub. Lib.

DANA, E. S. Bibliography of Mineralogy, [in Ann. Rep. of the Smithsonian Inst. for 1883, p. 676]. Washington: 1884. B 336

DAWSON, J. W. D. Bibliography, [in Arcadian Geology, p. 8]. London: 1868. B 337

Geology.

LESLIE, J. P. List of the publications of the Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, [in Historical Sketch, XXII]. Harrisburg: 1876. B 338

— — Sketch of the Literature of Geology in the United States, [in Historical Sketch of the Second Geo. Survey of Pa., p. 4]. Harrisburg: 1876. B 339

LIST of reports and maps of the U. S. geographical Surveys west of the 100th Meridian. Washington: 1882. B 340

Earlier edition, 1878.

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THE PROPOSED NATIONAL LIBRARY,
FLORENCE, ITALY.

NOT long after the demolition of the old Ghetto
of Florence was begun, in order to beautify the
city with a central square in place of the pictu-
resque but squalid tenements bordering on the
Mercato Vecchio, the authorities decided to re-
serve a liberal share of the new ground for the
National Library.

Early in 1886 plans were completed for a build-
ing to occupy this site. At present the matter is
in abeyance, owing to uncertainty regarding the
shape which the project of the central square will
take. As originally contemplated, however, the
library building was to have fronted on this
"Centro di Firenze," completely isolated by
streets on the other three sides, and occupying a
space of 27,000 square meters.

The designs for this building were prepared by
the Chevalier Leopoldo Mansueti, government
architect for scientific and scholastic buildings, and
were made after a careful study of over forty plans
of the most recent library buildings in Europe
and America.

The projected building encloses two courts, of
which the larger is a garden visible from the
windows of the main reading-room. In a high
and airy basement is a newspaper-room to ac-
commodate 125,000 vols., a reservation none too
large when we remember that the library receives
by copyright every journal published in the king-
dom. The basement also contains a bindery.
On the ground floor are five distinct reading-
rooms: (1) general, (2) mss. and rare books,
(3) periodicals, (4) natural sciences, (5) fine arts
and engineering. There are also some rooms
for the storage of books on this floor, as well as
rooms for the administration and for cataloguing,
delivery-rooms, and a hall for the public card
catalogues. In the second story are the principal
book-rooms, together with three halls for the ex-
hibition of mss., early-printed or otherwise re-
markable books, bindings, etc., and two hand-
some tribunes devoted respectively to Galileo
and Dante collections. Every book is accessible
without ladders or steps. On the roof is a room
for photographing mss. and rare books. The
plans permit the addition of a third story. There
are three lifts. Toilet-rooms are provided for
both sexes; those for employés being also
separate. Much study was spent upon the prob-
lems of heating, light, and ventilation, and special
pains taken to insure coolness in summer.

H. KEPHART.

THE LOWELL (MASS.) CITY LIBRARY
REORGANIZED.

THIS library was established by the city in
1844, under the title of the "City School Lib-
rary," and has been managed ever since according
to the terms of a municipal ordinance which has
been occasionally modified to meet the varying
requirements of the city's growth and the exten-
sion of the library. Under this ordinance the
affairs of the library have been administered by a
board of nine directors, consisting of the mayor,
the president of the common council, and the
superintendent of public schools as ex-officio
members, and six citizens selected by concurrent
vote of both branches of the city council, each of
the latter serving for a term of three years, and
two of them retiring annually. An important
change has just been made in the manner of con-
ducting the library by an act of the Legislature
vesting its management for the future in a board
of trustees. This act became a law April 17. Its
text is as follows:

AN ACT to incorporate the Trustees of the City
Library of Lowell.

SECTION 1. The directors of the city library
for the time being are hereby made a corporation
by the name of the Trustees of the City Library
of Lowell, for the purposes hereinafter set forth,
with all the powers and privileges and subject to
all the duties, restrictions, and liabilities in the
general laws that now are or may hereafter be
in force relation to such corporations.

SEC. 2. Said corporation may receive and hold
real and personal estate for the benefit of the li-
brary to an amount not exceeding \$200,000, but
the value of the books that are now in the said
library or may hereafter be added thereto shall
not be included in said amount. Money received
by the said corporation shall be invested under
the direction of the finance committee of the said
city of Lowell by the city treasurer; provided,
however, that both the principal and income
thereof shall be appropriated by said corporation
in conformity with the terms upon which the
same are held, and all the securities of the said
corporation shall be in the custody of the said
treasurer.

SEC. 3. The trustees of the city library shall
be six in number, including the mayor, who shall
be ex-officio the president of the board. In the
month of December next the mayor shall ap-
point, subject to the approval of the board of
aldermen, five citizens of Lowell to be members
of the board of trustees of said library, one of
whom shall hold office for five years, one for
four years, one for three years, one for two years,
and one for one year, and they shall enter upon
their duties on the second Monday of January
next, when the terms of office of the trustees then
in office shall cease. And annually thereafter, in
the month of December, the mayor shall appoint,
subject to the approval of the board of alder-
men, from the citizens of Lowell a trustee to
serve for the term of five years, or until his suc-
cessor shall be appointed. Whenever a vacancy
shall occur in said board the same shall be filled
in the manner aforesaid, and the new trustee shall
hold office for the residue of the unexpired term.

No member of said board shall receive any pecuniary compensation for his services.

SEC. 4. The members of said board shall meet for organization on the second Monday in January in each year. They shall have the general care and control of the library, the expenditure of the moneys appropriated therefor, and may make rules and regulations relating to the library, its officers and servants, and fix and enforce penalties for the violation of the same.

SEC. 5. The trustees shall, whenever there are vacancies, appoint a librarian and such assistants as they may deem necessary, and may remove them and fix their compensation.

SEC. 6. The trustees shall report to the city council annually, in the month of December, the receipts and expenditures on account of the library, the number of volumes purchased during the year, the total number of volumes in the library, the number of volumes used during the year, the number of borrowers registered during the year, the number of persons entitled to draw books for home use, with such other information as they may deem desirable to communicate.

SEC. 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

CUSHING'S "ANONYMS."

MR. CUSHING issues the following circular :

I am sorry to say that my recent attempt to obtain a subscription list that would enable me to publish my "Anonyms" was a failure, and therefore I cancel it and offer new terms. I propose, then, that the work be issued in parts of 200 pages each, like Sabin's "Bibliotheca Americana," in paper, at \$5.00 a part. I have now collected about 25,000 titles of anonymous books and pamphlets, with the names of the authors, and think they will cover from 800 to 1000 pages. These will make four or five parts, and will cost \$20.00 or \$25.00 for the two volumes.

I regret that the work will not be in sufficient demand to enable the publisher to issue it at a lower price. But I am sure that it will be worth that as a tool-book to any library that wishes to do good work. On these terms, if 100 copies should be ordered, I think that I can get a publisher, and have it brought out in as good shape as my "Initials and Pseudonyms."

Can we get subscriptions for that number of copies?

Let me make a few suggestions to the librarians of the larger libraries: That they subscribe, themselves, for at least two copies—one as a book of reference for general readers, and another to be used in library work; and also to call the attention of scholars and readers, who frequent these libraries, to the work, and solicit their names to its subscription list. Many librarians will know of persons who would be glad to possess such a book, or would willingly aid in its publication.

To the librarians of the smaller libraries: Your trustees will probably think that their funds had better be spent for other books, and that the purchase of this cannot be afforded. But the time will surely come when you will greatly need such a book; and if this opportunity is lost, it

will be too late to secure it. Could you not, then, get up a subscription for its purchase? A few individuals, giving a trifle each, would make up the necessary sum.

I have not room to tell the buyers and sellers, the publishers and users of books, of the great value such a book would be to them.

I should be sorry to have my manuscript go into the waste-basket, and the work of so many months and years be lost to the world, for no one knowing its fate would have the courage to engage in a similar compilation.

W. CUSHING.

WARR STREET, CAMBRIDGE, May 1, 1888.

THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Children's Library Association was re-opened, after a long *interim*, in the room assigned to it in the Bruce Library, 226 W. 42d St., New York, on Monday, April 30.

The early history of the Association is fully given in the LIBRARY JOURNAL, 12: 185, in the paper by Miss E. S. Hanaway, its founder, and the new constitution is printed in full, 12: 224.

For most of last year, the books of the library were stored at Columbia College. One or two organizing meetings were held in the librarian's room there, and on Feb. 8 the regular annual meeting was held in the room at the Bruce Library, when the following trustees were elected: Edward Chichester, Edgar Vanderbilt, Rev. Dr. F. De Sola Mendes, Nathaniel Niles, President of the Tradesmen's Bank, Jerome Allen, Editor of the *School Journal*, Walter Carter, R. R. Bowker, Melvil Dewey, W. W. Appleton, N. M. Butler, President of the Industrial Education Association, the Rev. Dr. Backus, Professor C. Sprague Smith, of Columbia College, Miss E. S. Hanaway, Miss A. H. Westervelt, and Miss Flint. Mr. Appleton afterward declined to serve, being already a trustee of the Bruce Library.

At a later meeting at Columbia College, the Association was put on a secure foundation, with John Bigelow as President; F. A. P. Barnard, President of Columbia College, and the Rev. Robert Collyer, Vice-Presidents; Nathaniel Niles, President of the Tradesmen's National Bank, Treasurer; and Edgar Vanderbilt, Secretary.

The President of the Association is a layman, and the intention is to make the library purely non-sectarian. Committees from the different faiths have charge of the selection of books, and no book which is objectionable to any of them can be admitted to the library. A number of working committees have been provided for. The memberships of the Association are of several kinds. The annual fee for members is \$1, for associates \$5, for subscribers \$10, and for fellows \$20. A single payment of ten times the amount of the annual dues makes the person paying the amount a life member of either class he may select. There have been several liberal subscriptions, and considerable money has been raised. It is expected that sufficient money will be raised to place the Association on a footing that will insure its success.

The Trustees of the New York Free Circulat-

ing Library have given the Association the third floor of the new George Bruce Library, free of charge, the room has been neatly fitted with oak shelving, tables and chairs, and Mrs. Rupprecht, who has had experience with children as a teacher in the schools, has taken charge of the work.

Within three days from the opening 107 children had registered their names, and an average addition of over 50 names was made on succeeding days. The first Saturday 54 children were waiting at the doors when Mrs. Rupprecht reached the library. The library is open only from 4 to 6 on other days than Saturday, when it is open from 9 to 12. The children sit at low tables, mostly two on a chair, for there are as yet only 36 chairs at the four tables, and fifty is the minimum number of visitors. They keep very quiet, the younger ones looking at pictures, or the stereoscope (of which the only one has to do yeoman's service), or playing such games as "Spliced Animals," of which more are needed.

There are now 568 books, which will be loaned out as soon as they are prepared for loan. The following is the application blank:

No.
The undersigned, an inhabitant of the city of New York, between 5 and 12 years of age, residing at..... hereby applying for the right to use the Children's Library, George Bruce Memorial Building, 226 West 42d Street, promises to obey all its Rules, and to give immediate notice at the Library of any change of residence.

[Sign Name].....
No. of School.....
Name of Teacher.....

I believe it will be safe to loan this applicant books.

REFERENCE'S NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
OCCUPATION.....

The borrower's card is in the simplest form, and is printed in both English and German.

The public are invited to visit the library, and to send donations in money, books, pictures, or suitable games.

THE LATE W. E. LAYTON.

From the Newark Advertiser.

WILLIAM E. LAYTON, many years librarian of the Newark Library Association, and one of Newark's best-known citizens and public men, died Feb. 21. Death resulted from a complication of diseases, including dropsy. Mr. Layton leaves a widow, three daughters, and a son. The son, Jacob M. Layton, is engaged in the banking business at South Norwalk, Conn. Two of the daughters are married—one to William H. Nicholas, of South Orange, and the other to the Rev. Theodore A. Baldwin, a missionary at Constantinople.

Mr. Layton was born in Woodbridge, July 13, 1880, and therefore was almost an octogenarian. He served an apprenticeship as a hatter in Newark. In 1830 he entered the employ of Rankin, Duryee & Co.

Mr. Layton took considerable interest in local affairs. He was a Republican. In 1851 he was elected a member of the Common Council. Two years later he became President thereof, and

he retired one year later. He was chairman of the committee which received Kossuth when that notable man visited Newark.

Mr. Layton was considered a leading municipal reformer. He introduced the first pavements laid in Newark, and is accredited with introducing the sewerage system. Soon after his election to the Board of Aldermen he perceived that many improvements were needed to help Newark fulfil its promise of becoming a great manufacturing centre, and bent his energies toward bringing them about. He paid especial attention to improved sewerage, and was chairman of the committee which had that matter in hand.

Mr. Layton was elected a director of the Library Association, January 5, 1853, and became librarian, December 1, 1869. His devotion to the institution had an admirable effect in its development.

The deceased librarian was remarkable for his physical and mental vigor, which he retained up to the last days of his work in the library. He was very sensitive in regard to other people's opinion of his physical condition, and often inconvenienced himself by attempting to conceal his ill-health from the eyes of his friends. His physical courage was great. He would personally eject a drunken or refractory person from the library.

Mr. Layton was a thorough bibliographer. His fondness for books was phenomenal, as also was his memory. He knew the contents of nearly every book on the shelves and could state the contents of books he had read half a century before. He was particularly fond of ransacking the library for very old and quaint works. The use to which he put his discoveries in this line was characteristic of the man. He would quiz some teacher or dominie visiting the library and appear anxious to obtain information on some quaint historical point. This would set the quizzed ones making searches at home or elsewhere, for they were invariably glad to please him, but almost as invariably failed, for they would return minus the facts. Then the librarian would rise to the occasion. He would fish out some quaint volume and quietly ask the non-plussed teachers to read such and such a passage. The effect may be imagined.

During the recent Bacon and Shakespeare controversy Mr. Layton made a careful search into the Shakespeariana of his library. He stumbled upon a literary bonanza—some pamphlet plays dating so far back as 1605. These he prized dearly, nor are they the only valuable "finds" he made in the library he so ably controlled.

He treated the library more like a home than a workshop. He was there early and late, frequently there at 7 in the morning. After leaving at night his habit was to cross the road and scan the library building carefully to see that it was not on fire. After this he walked home, feeling assured his literary treasures were safe from fire at least.

He was courteous in manners, kind and considerate to his assistants, and always ready to exercise his memory to serve any and every one who sought information about the books under his care.

THE DISPLACEMENT OF MRS. MAXWELL.

IN regard to the displacement of Mrs. S. B. Maxwell from the Iowa State Library, the *Des Moines Leader* says :

"Yesterday Gov. Larrabee and State Superintendent Akers went to Iowa City to attend a meeting of the Regents of the State University, but before the Governor grabbed his satchel he affixed his name to a commission which designated Mrs. Mary Miller, one of the teachers in Grant School in this city, as State Librarian to succeed Mrs. Sarah B. Maxwell. Thus Gov. Larrabee has afforded the quidnuncs another opportunity to observe that he has a peculiar way of doing things—perhaps what is most peculiar is that long and faithful service finds no favor in his sight, and that a woman—a soldier's widow—must consider that her sex gives her no claim on his forbearance. What is noticeable more than all is that Gov. Larrabee seems, in his appointments of late, to be getting rid of everybody who owed gratitude to his predecessors for their original appointment. So it begins to look as if he had modified his intention, expressed last fall, of getting out of politics, and that he has decided to add to his sixteen years as Senator six as Governor and the rest of his life as U. S. Senator—that is, if Iowa does not go Democratic next year.

"Mrs. Maxwell was first appointed ten years ago, succeeding Mrs. Ada North, now librarian of the State University, and she has filled the place well and capably. She has done much to advance the usefulness of the library, and it is now a splendid repository of Iowa archives. Limited to meagre appropriations, she has so carefully husbanded her resources that the library is now amply provided with reference-books for those looking up special matters, and it also begins to show up well in its miscellaneous collection. The news of the change will be received with profound regret by the hosts of warm friends that Mrs. Maxwell has acquired, and who will hope for her something equally remunerative and pleasant in the way of employment.

"While regretting Mrs. Maxwell's displacement it is not intended to disparage Mrs. Miller, her successor. Mrs. Miller, whose maiden name was McGinty, comes from Eddyville, where she had been a teacher for years prior to coming to Des Moines. Widowed a dozen years or more ago, she has battled her own way and provided for a son. She is a most amiable and estimable lady, and no doubt deserves the Grand Army backing she has received."

The *Leader* adds editorially: "All of Governor Larrabee's recent appointments have given strength to the current rumor that he is a candidate for a third term. They have evidently been made with a view of obtaining the influence of certain elements that go far toward the control of a nominating convention. None of them has more of a third-term color than his action yesterday in displacing Mrs. Maxwell as State Librarian by the appointment of a lady whose chief reliance for influence is the Grand Army of the Republic.

No State has ever had a more competent or faithful official than Mrs. Maxwell. No library in the United States has been better kept. Her systematic, methodical work was the subject of praise from strangers and admiration of friends. But Mrs. Maxwell, with the knowledge and sanction of the Governor, had offended some of the State House papsuckers. She had refused to allow them to dictate who her subordinates should be. Knowing that in this she was upheld by the Governor, the brave Grand Army battalions turned their assaults from a woman official to the chief executive. He stood firm for a year, and probably never would have yielded if the third-term bee had not begun to buzz loudly in his bonnet. It is a singular chapter in Iowa politics that is written in the displacement of Mrs. Maxwell."

[We gladly add this letter from an Iowa citizen, who is thoroughly qualified to speak with authority. — Eds. L. J.]

DES MOINES, May 3.

The removal of Mrs. S. B. Maxwell from the office of State Librarian here is a great surprise to everybody outside of the State House. I have known her and seen her work for eight years, and never heard a word of complaint in any way. So far as I have had anything to do with her management, and you may well guess that was not a little, I cannot praise it too highly.

In my most difficult researches into the deepest questions, such as extremely few people find it possible to acquire familiarity with, she has rendered prompt, efficient, invaluable help in the most unexpected ways.

The change is regarded here as entirely a political one, made at the instance of a faction of the G. A. R., although Mrs. Maxwell is a soldier's widow. There is a good deal of criticism of it throughout the State.

Mrs. Maxwell's retirement is not on account of her political opinions, but was very likely intended to further some personal political ambition. The charge made on the outside is that it is part of a third-term scheme for Gov. Larrabee. I know nothing about that.

If anything I have here said is worth noting in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, you are welcome to it. My only desire is that injustice should not be done a good woman who is also a faithful and efficient public servant. I haven't a word to say of the new librarian, except that I hope she will do well.

HENRY J. PHILPOTT.

"HONOR TO WHOM HONOR."—A CORRECTION.

AT the close of the article in the March-April no. containing extracts from the paper read before the teachers of Weymouth, reference was made to the "13 page list of books from which the pupils of the high schools are recommended to read" as if it were compiled by me. Mr. Downs, one of the high school teachers, must have all the credit of that and his name should have appeared on the first page of the list.

CAROLINE A. BLANCHARD,
Librarian Weymouth P. L.

REPORT ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

In a report dated March 27, but recently issued, Secretary Vilas transmits to Congress the report of the work done 1886-7 by the Bureau of the Interior Department (under charge of J. G. Ames) charged with the receipt and distribution of public documents. There are now 408 libraries known as depositories of public documents, New York State leading with 34; a list is given of these, as also of the 636 libraries and other institutions which have sent or received Government publications in the course of the exchange system so usefully carried on by this Bureau with a view to completing sets and filling gaps. A list of documents of the 49th Congress, printed under general or special law, is appended, with the number printed, which reaches a total of 2,841,139 copies.

Some documents of the 46th, many of the 47th and 48th, and most of the 49th Congress had not yet been received in bound form from the Public Printer. The report says:

"It is greatly to be regretted that some provision cannot be made for the early binding of this edition, from which depositories are supplied, so that they will not be obliged to wait for one and sometimes two years after a document is printed before receiving the same."

Of the valuable census reports, Vols. 17, 19, 21, 22, have yet to be printed, the appropriations having been exhausted.

"By joint resolution approved March 3, 1887, provision is made for the sale of public documents, at cost price, by the Secretary of the Interior, who is required to report annually to Congress the number of each public document sold and the price thereof." Under the provisions of this resolution and of a joint resolution approved August 4, 1886, authorizing the sale of the United States map prepared by the General Land Office, there were sold during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1887, 1522 maps at \$1.50 each, \$2283, and 115 other documents, \$108.20, making in all \$2391.20.

"Applications for the purchase of public documents are steadily increasing in number as the above-noted provision for their sale comes to be more generally known. Opportunity is thus afforded for securing publications of the Government, of which many persons are glad to avail themselves rather than appeal to heads of departments or members of Congress for gratuitous additions to their libraries. The sale of documents might readily be very largely increased by the publication, especially for this purpose, of a small edition of such as are most valuable and most in demand, or by giving authority to the Secretary of the Interior to make requisition upon the Department or Bureau having charge of any particular document not in his possession, whenever application for the purchase of such a document is received. While the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to sell 'any public document, of which copies available for this purpose, not required for official use, remain,' he is practically

limited in the sale of documents to the publications of his own Department.

"It is therefore suggested whether in the interest of a wise economy it would not be well for Congress to make ample provision for the sale of current issues of Government publications, at the simple cost of their reproduction from stereotype plates, and so bring them, at very small expense, within the reach of all persons to whom they would be of special service.

"The work of receiving public documents forwarded to the Department by libraries having them in duplicate, and of their distribution to other libraries for the purpose of supplying deficiencies in the same, was continued through the year with very gratifying and valuable results." Check lists of the following series of documents have been prepared, viz.:

Congressional Globe and Record.

American Archives.

American State papers.

Annals of Congress.

Register of Debates.

Reports of the United States Patent-Office.

Commissioner of Agriculture.

Smithsonian Institution.

Reports of the U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. — *Hayden*.

Geological Survey of the Fortieth Parallel. — *King*.

Geographical Surveys West of the One

Hundredth Meridian. — *Wheeler*.

U. S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries.

Bureau of Education.

Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Census.

United States Coast Survey.

Reports on the Commerce and Navigation of the United States.

Commercial Relations of the United States.

"These lists have been sent to about 800 libraries for the purpose of ascertaining what deficiencies, if any, exist in each, and what duplicates are available for redistribution. A large number of these libraries have warmly welcomed this opportunity of completing or adding to their sets of the documents named, and have heartily coöperated in the work by turning over to the Department duplicates which were simply an incumbrance upon their shelves.

"The aggregate number of volumes of the *Globe* and *Record* received from libraries, is 11,953, while the total aggregate of all public documents thus received amounts to 48,083 volumes.

"It is respectfully suggested whether more ample provision ought not to be made by Congress for supplying libraries with public documents. If the entire list of depositories of public documents were full, only about 450 libraries would be provided for, while there are probably at least 1000 more in which the more important documents ought to find a place, and to which, in virtue of statute provision, they should be regularly sent, instead of their being obliged to depend, as now, upon the irregular and uncertain courtesy of members of Congress or departments of the Government. It would seem that adequate provision should at once be made for all the large and permanent libraries of the country. This would justify a large reduction in expenditure for

printing documents for individual distribution, as when deposited in libraries they are brought within the reach of all the citizens of the district or community.

"Attention is again called to the vicious system of giving titles to public documents, especially those issued in two or more editions, which are usually characterized by different titles."

The Annual Report of the Commissioner of Education is cited as an example — issued in the "usual number" edition of 1900 copies denominated on the back "Executive Documents, etc., vol. 13, Education Report, 1883;" again, in the regular cloth-bound edition of 3000 copies, denominated on the back "Message and Documents, Interior Department, vol. 4," and on the title-page "Report of the Secretary of the Interior, being part of the Message and Documents, etc., vol. 4," and issued also in a special edition, that for 1882-'83, 7000 copies for the use of the Senate, 14,000 for the use of the House, and 20,000 for the use of the Bureau of Education, and denominated "Report of the Commissioner of Education, 1882-'83." A fourth edition of these volumes is issued by the Department itself, with a different title still.

"This multiplicity of issues and variety of titles very largely increase duplication. It doubtless often happens that members of Congress, misled thereby, inadvertently send two or more copies of the same document to a constituent or library, while it is rendered easily practicable for parties desiring extra copies of any of these documents for personal ends to secure them.

"Some better system which might readily be devised in the matter of giving title to these several editions of the same document, and of other documents as well, would, in part, remedy this evil and also remove other inconveniences very often experienced by those consulting the reports of the Government.

"A large and needless waste in the matter of public documents is occasioned by the enormous issue of unbound copies which takes place under present regulations.

"It is undoubtedly true that many documents must be delivered in unbound form for the immediate use of Congress in current legislation, but, in the aggregate, these form only a small portion of those thus issued, chiefly reports of committees and certain of the current executive and miscellaneous documents. But that 800 or 900 copies each of the quarto volumes of the Tenth Census, of Records of the Rebellion, of the Official Register of the United States, of the annual reports of the Bureau of Ethnology, of the Geological Survey, and of other costly scientific publications of the Government, and of such annual reports of Executive Departments as form each a separate and entire volume, should be issued in unbound form for such disposition as usually befalls these documents seems wholly unnecessary.

"Reform in this matter will consist either in largely reducing the number issued unbound, carefully discriminating between those that are and those that are not required for immediate

use in legislation, or in binding all documents which constitute each by itself an independent volume before they are sent from the printing-office, thus making them available for general distribution. Had the latter been done during the last three Congresses probably not less than 200,000 volumes would have been saved for public use.

"While in very many cases it is impossible to bring together, for the purpose of binding in volumes of convenient size, documents and reports homogeneous in their character, the exercise of a wise discrimination would nevertheless in other cases separate and put in distinct volumes documents which now appear bound together in a single volume of the series."

As an example of this is cited House Misc. Docs. Forty-ninth Congress first session, volume 2, embracing Document No. 16, Revision of the Rules of the House of Representatives; Document No. 304, Geological History of Lake Lahontan; Document No. 305, Monograph of the Dinocerata; making a large, unwieldy quarto volume of 834 pages, and 56 plates on heavy paper, weighing 10 pounds.

"Such combination helps to increase the confusion and perplexity in which many librarians and others find themselves when examining this series of public documents, relief from which it is of course impossible wholly to secure. The binding together, however, of documents so extremely diverse can probably be readily avoided, and to this extent the greater convenience of those who have occasion to consult them be subserved.

"The present methods of distribution involve waste and extravagance, and therefore needless expenditure for public printing, and in no small measure subject to inconvenience nearly all parties having to do with public documents. It will be borne in mind that the aggregate number of documents shown by the tables, viz.: 2,841,139 volumes, is by no means the entire number ordered or published by the Government during the 49th Congress, as none of the reports or other publications of the Executive Departments ordered by requisitions of said departments, the expense of printing which is paid from their respective appropriations, are included in this number. The reports of the Public Printer give no information as to the number of volumes thus ordered and published, but they doubtless amount to many thousands annually, carrying the total for the period above referred to nearly if not quite to 3,000,000 volumes. The printing and distribution of documents seems to be the only department of public business in which there is no serious endeavor after economic methods, notwithstanding the large expenditure of public moneys involved. It is undoubtedly true that if a system were adopted, committing the entire distribution of public documents to one agency, under regulations satisfactory to Congress and preventive of duplication, the number of documents might be largely reduced, with as valuable results to the public as are realized under the vicious methods that now prevail."

THE LIBRARY BUREAU.

To guard against possible misunderstanding it seems proper that I should state my real relations to the Library Bureau, lest the wild idea should enter some careless minds from reading the notes in the last JOURNAL that I have bought and propose to conduct a business outside of my pressing duties at Columbia. I believe the Library Bureau to be the most important of the four agencies (A. L. A., JOURNAL, Bureau, and School) for advancing library interests, because it does the most tangible and important work, and is engaged constantly throughout the year. In this belief I have sacrificed something in the past and will do something in the future, but much less, unless others show a disposition to help.

At the Boston Conference in 1879 the report of the Cooperation Committee through Mr. Cutter (*L. J.*, 4 : 286) and that of the secretary (*L. J.*, 4 : 285) called special attention to the great importance of the work of the A. L. A. Supply Department. Prices on many articles had been reduced one-half from what had been charged before this cooperative work was started. More improvements, the committee declared, had been made in the three years than in three decades before. An enormous total of time and trouble had been saved the libraries utilizing these facilities. In the three years there had been \$6284.82 cash sales. As secretary I had managed the enterprise without compensation, but the receipts even then were \$180.18 less than necessary expenses. This deficiency I assumed personally in order that the business might start anew without debts. It was found that if the business fell into merely commercial hands, the many articles that were commercially unprofitable would be dropped, and the sole effort would be to make the most money possible rather than to help the libraries most. As a result, after a time most of the business would be discontinued, then prices by other dealers would be restored to the old figures, which had been reduced as soon as better supplies were advertised at a lower rate by our Supply Dept.

At Washington (*L. J.*, 6 : 140¹⁸) the A. L. A. unanimously voted "That the Executive Board be requested to establish (if they find it practicable) without pecuniary liability to officers or members of the A. L. A.) a Library Bureau, as a center for library interests, and to carry out, as far as may be, the plans for cooperative cataloging and indexing, title-slips, indexes to subject headings, the A. L. A. catalog, exchange of duplicates, the library manual, and the various other plans devised, or to be hereafter devised, by the A. L. A.

or the Cooperation Committee; and that we promise to such a Bureau if established our hearty cooperation and support."

Returning from that meeting I again undertook the old work with still broader aims, for the first time using its present title "Library Bureau." For two years it grew steadily, though without sufficient capital to do its work properly.

Before coming to Columbia, where I was promised opportunity to establish the much-needed Library School after getting the new library organized, I provided that the Bureau should continue its important work and in the spirit in which it had been founded. As the only means of doing this I sold the business to my old head assistant, H. E. Davidson, who, familiar with its spirit, agreed to take up and carry on the work, I in turn giving him a bill of sale on long time and allowing him to take his own inventory and fix his own prices after having had time to find what he could safely pay. For five years he has given all his efforts to this work, with the net loss announced in the last JOURNAL.

Personally, since selling, I have been in no sense a partner, having no interest whatever but a creditor's, in the profits. As Consulting Librarian I have constantly tried to help the Bureau, and two or three times each year have made short visits to it. Besides giving long time on the purchase-money, I have during five years lent every dollar I could spare from living expenses to help meet the demand for more capital to carry the multitude of articles required by the libraries.

Finally, when the crisis came last month, I tried to do more than my share by waiving my rights under the chattel mortgages which I held as security, and taking my pro rata loss with the other creditors. When it was found by the creditors' investigation that a forced closing of the business would yield only about 20 per cent. of the claims, acting against the advice of my lawyer, who, as a matter of money, wished me not to put another dollar where I had lost so much, I borrowed several thousand dollars and accepted the proposition made by the creditors to pay them 40 per cent. (double what they would have realized by forced sale), and take the business free from debts. I also released Mr. Davidson, who by his hard work for five years has deserved a better return, from the large accumulation of debt due me; assumed the payment when it comes due of his note of \$5000 for borrowed money, which, bearing my endorsement, was not subject to reduction; and finally, though not asked to do so, volunteered to pay in full a number of libraries

and private customers who had goods or balances on account due them.

Here the matter stands at this writing. I have by a great effort pulled the sinking craft up on the beach. Whether it is broken up for firewood or launched again, protected against the danger of a second misfortune, will depend on the spirit shown by others who ought to be interested.

A corporation has been suggested, and I believe fully that profiting by previous mistakes the business can pay expenses and 6% interest on the capital invested. If this plan has supporters I expect to turn over to the corporation the property at as much less than actual cost as the other stockholders, not counting my vote, should consider fair.

Or the business is for sale cheap, if satisfactory evidence can be given that it will be run in the interests of libraries and as an important aid to the modern movement and not merely as a device to make money out of institutions most of which are more or less straitened financially. The business must of course pay a living profit or it cannot be continued till some one sufficiently recognizes its field of usefulness to endow it. No one will choose it as a means of rapidly gaining wealth.

Finally I wish to record here two points.

1. Probably no one knows better how much the Bureau has lacked of attaining its ideal. Delays and blunders seemingly past forgiveness have occurred in some cases. But the cause must be remembered. The manager has been forced to spend at least half his strength in "getting along," when with sufficient capital and the support to which he was justly entitled, he might have used this strength in preventing these delays and blunders by his young clerks. These regrettable things have happened and cannot be ignored, and no scheme of reorganization is satisfactory that does not remove their cause.

2. I confess to a feeling akin to indignation when I hear the "regrets at the Bureau's misfortune" of certain prominent librarians who are very ready to profit by the Bureau's labors either by "borrowing" devices (unpatented and patented too) which it has spent money in developing; or in enjoying reduced expenses which its manager has secured by spending much valuable time; or in buying from the Bureau now and then an article which cannot be had anywhere else; but who uniformly give all their profitable trade to some other concern when the Bureau has for years printed its offer to supply them and guarantee both quality and price. I agreed heartily with Mr. Davidson last fall when in reply to the hint

that a prominent librarian had suggested a purse in recognition of his services, he said: "I don't want to have any money given me, and shall be more than satisfied if he will let me supply his cards, etc., at the same prices he now pays, and I will give him better quality besides."

Another officer of the A. L. A. priced Bureau cards and then gave the order to a stationer who offered them for \$1.75 instead of \$1.80 per 1000 because he had the printed price before him and must cut rates. And the cards which he got were not of the Bureau at half-price because the quality was below A. L. A. standard.

Experiences of this kind cool one's enthusiasm greatly in trying to improve and cheapen library fittings and supplies.

On the other hand, many librarians have written most appreciatively of the service the Bureau has been to them in saving time, trouble, and money, and in improving their fittings and methods. Such testimony tempers gratefully our losses and trials.

The work can go on better than ever before if \$5-10,000 added capital is supplied. Most delays could be avoided, several times the interest could be saved by paying advance cash for all materials, and the strength of the manager could go to the library work instead of to the vain attempt to make \$15,000 do the proper work of \$25,000.

We wish to hear at once from all interested in having the Bureau go on, if no more than a post card saying your patronage, either personal or official, will be given for all its articles to be had as good and as cheap as in any other market. If you will contribute \$100 or more to the needed new capital, either as stock or as a loan with ample security at 5%, your letter will be doubly welcome. One appreciative patron has already volunteered \$1000, thus suggesting this paragraph.

Any one willing to aid by lending the Bureau funds at a low interest on satisfactory security can be of service in this way if preferring a certain low interest to the risk of investing in stock.

I still hope the JOURNAL has enough readers who appreciate the good the BUREAU can do when no longer handicapped, so that together they can supply the needed extra capital (none of that invested is to be withdrawn), and the Bureau in turn can do its work with credit and also earn a fair interest on the investment. The month of June ought to see Mr. Davidson prepared to do better work than ever before.

If you care to have this work go on write at least a card and say so. MELVIL DEWEY.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE LIBRARY, 15 May, 1888.

New York Library Club.

TWELFTH REGULAR MEETING.

THE twelfth regular meeting of the Club was called to order, at Columbia College Library, at 3.15 p.m., Thursday, May 10, Pres. Poole in the chair. About thirty-five members and visitors were present. The minutes of the eleventh meeting of the Club, Mar. 8, were approved as printed in L. J. 13: 98.

THE N. Y. LIBRARY ENCOURAGEMENT ACT.

The Secretary, for the committee on amendments to the Library law of 1886, read the following letter from Judge H. E. Howland, to whom the amendments proposed at the last meeting were referred by resolution [L. J. 13: 99]:

NEW YORK, April 12, 1888.

C: ALEX. NELSON, Esq., Sec. N. Y. Library Club.

MY DEAR SIR: The amendments to the Library law of 1886, proposed by the New York Library Club, which you were good enough to send me, were submitted by me to the Board of Trustees of the New York Free Circulating Library at their meeting on Tuesday last.

It was the opinion of the Board that it would be dangerous to try to amend the law, for the reason that existing restrictions could be easily removed at the instance of parties desiring aid for small libraries, and that the necessity for frequent applications to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment would be unwise; in fact that that part of the proposed amendments would be impossible to carry out, for the reason that the appropriations must be made in advance by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for the succeeding year, viz.: on or before the first day of January of each year, and they have no power to make any appropriation during the current year. The appropriation for the libraries is based on the circulation for the previous year, and is drawn monthly by arrangement with the Comptroller, so that unless the amount is appropriated the year before, the money cannot be obtained.

It is, however, too late to secure any legislation this year, however desirable, and in case you desire any amendments for the coming year, I should be happy to consider them with you.

Yours truly,

HENRY E. HOWLAND.

Mr. Dewey. — It seems to me that the points made in this letter go outside of the ground covered by the proposed amendment, which was to provide for the appropriation to libraries circulating annually in excess of 75,000 v. (which entitles each to \$5000) of sums of \$1000, for a pro rata increase of circulation, instead of obliging them to reach 100,000 v. additional circulation in order to get another \$5000. A library circulating just less than the required 100,000 v. gets

nothing additional under the present law. While the proposed amendment would allow it to ask for multiples of \$1000, in proportion to its amount of additional circulation. After a short discussion, on motion of Mr. Bowker the whole matter was laid over until the November meeting.

COMMITTEES, ETC.

The Secretary for the Committee on Library statistics reported that only 17 responses had been received to the 40 inquiry blanks that had been sent out to incorporated libraries, and that no inquiry blanks had been sent to private libraries.

The Executive Committee, to which was referred the organization of a joint committee of teachers and librarians, reported progress. The Committee on Union list had no report to make.

The Executive Committee recommended Prof. E. H. Day and Misses Henrietta Grothwohl and Helen B. Thurston for membership, and they were unanimously elected.

On motion Messrs. Dewey, Peoples, and Bowker were appointed a committee to nominate the Executive Committee for the ensuing year 1888-89.

HOW TO STIMULATE THE FORMATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Pres. Poole then announced the first topic for discussion: How best to stimulate the formation of public libraries in New York State.

Mr. Cohen. — I have made some investigations in connection with this subject and find from the Record No. of L. J. for 1887 that there are but 27 free public libraries in this State, outside of this city. Illinois has 39, Rhode Island 31, Massachusetts 187. From the census of 1880 I find there are only 5 cities in Massachusetts with over 5000 population that have *not* free circulating libraries. Taking as a good basis to start from that a population of 5000 ought to support a free circulating library, I find 113 cities and towns in New York State with a population of 5000 and over; 42 with over 10,000 population. I think this shows ample need that something should be done. Perhaps we can get up a strong circular on this subject, embodying practical hints on the formation of free libraries, print it in the LIBRARY JOURNAL, strike off separate copies and send to the clergymen, editors, and other leading men in these towns and cities, and thus agitate the subject.

Mr. Nelson. — In connection with this matter of free libraries in cities I would call attention to a wonderful statement in the daily Graphic last

evening. A full page is given to illustrations of some New York libraries, and the New York Free Circulating Library is said to be "free" only in its name, that one must give a reference even to get into the reading-room in Bond St., that only small mechanics and tradesmen patronize it; the writer does not know that the Lenox Library has been opened to the public, and he declares that the Astor Library is the only free library in the city.

Mr. Cohen.—I hope Mr. Bowker will give a number of the LIBRARY JOURNAL to such papers as would cover the ground I have referred to.

Mr. Bowker.—If Mr. Cohen will elaborate his remarks into a paper we will publish it in a special number, of which extra copies can be printed and circulated.

Mr. Poole.—In an old report relating to libraries in Massachusetts, I found the statement that over three million books were circulated on an expenditure of less than \$300,000.

Mr. Cohen.—Could not the Board of Regents attend to this?

Mr. Bowker.—Under the District library law, the educational authorities had charge of the libraries, but that system failed because of the lack of responsible supervision of the libraries.

Mr. Dewey.—I think much good would come from the special number of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, but I do not expect much until we get a special organization or officer at Washington, or in each State, to supervise this work. Under the school district law the failure came from no one being in charge of the books and no care being taken of the libraries. I am in favor of the special number of the LIBRARY JOURNAL. The time has almost come when the public will recognize that the public library is as important as the public school. The Regents have charge of the State Library and the State Museum, and of the higher education in the State. Academies or High Schools that choose to introduce the Regents' examinations and come under their control have certain advantages. They were at first trustees of all the colleges in the State. If they had a competent man to visit libraries, and give advice, etc., the libraries would be anxious to come under their management. In Mass. the Sec. of the Board of Education is the titular librarian of the State. Any town wanting a public library could send for this general agent and have him visit and advise. This I think we shall come to in a very few years. An appropriation of \$4000 to \$5000 a year would pay the expenses of such an office and officer. Mr. Nathaniel Niles has organized some 800 small

libraries in New Jersey by his own special efforts.

Mr. Bowker.—The voluntary principle embodied in the work under the Regents is very important. Many a library might take advantage of a system which offered certain benefits as a motive, which would rebel against being drafted in.

Mr. Dewey.—There would be opportunity under a State officer or organization for the distribution of books given, or bequests made, to be bestowed on any library in the State doing good work.

Mr. Cohen.—I think we might refer this matter to a committee who should have charge of drawing up this appeal or circular, and of the correspondence, of which there would be considerable. I move such a committee be appointed.

Mr. Bowker seconded the motion.

Mr. Hill.—In New Jersey under the law of 1884 Paterson has the only free public library yet in operation. Newark voted to have a free library under the law, and the amount to be raised would be \$33,000, but the politicians thought that would be too much to throw away on a library, and they had a bill introduced to reduce the amount to \$15,000. It was finally defeated, and Newark will get her library fund in July.

Mr. Peoples.—I think New York is supplying New Jersey. I saw a young man on the train on the way to Orange, with one of Alger's books from a New York library. I asked him if he took books from the New York library; he said yes; I asked him why he did not get them from the Orange free library; he said he got them there too. I made inquiries, and the librarian said he supplied readers in New Jersey, Brooklyn, Long Island, and anywhere within a radius of 30 miles.

Mr. Cohen's motion was then carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Committee on nominations reported as candidates for the Executive Committee: S. H. Berry, Miss Cutler, Miss Merington, C. Alex. Nelson, and A. W. Tyler, and they were unanimously elected.

Mr. Dewey.—This subsidy question and library extension are closely connected, and might be referred to the same committee.

Mr. Bowker.—I move that the previous motion (Mr. Cohen's) be reconsidered and that the subject of library extension be referred to the Committee on library legislation enlarged by such additional members as the President may name. Carried,

and Messrs. Cohen and Niles were added to the committee.

MERCANTILE AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Pres. Poole then announced the second topic for discussion: Should Mercantile libraries be sustained independently, or be merged in Free Public libraries? He called upon Mr. Peoples to open the discussion.

Mr. Peoples. — I expected to be absent from this meeting, but as this was to be my funeral I have made a special effort to be present, thinking it would be unique to attend and hear some of the funeral orations; but I certainly did not expect to make the first one. I think we are a pretty lively corpse. We have just had our annual meeting, on Tuesday last. We added 6793 v. during the past year, which is a larger number than any other library in the city has added, and only 310 of these were given; we expended \$10,300 for books, which is more than any other library in the city has expended; and we circulated 151,000 v., or 2000 more than during the previous year. 60% was genuine fiction, juvenile and otherwise; all our debts are paid and we have a nice nest-egg for the new year. We do not expect to be absorbed; we are going it alone; we may not take all the tricks, but we do not expect to be euchred. We expect to put up a new building, just where I cannot say, but we shall have neither a cupola nor a mortgage on it. [He then read a brief extract from the President's report.] If anybody wants us we are open to an offer, but at a high price. I am of the opinion that the Mercantile Library of New York will always be a part and parcel of New York.

There are many different opinions as to where we should build. Is there a central position below 59th St.? The centre of population is constantly moving up the island. In 1880 our Trustees bought property on the corner of 37th St. and Broadway; but that is now unsuitable. We shall probably build on our present site, as that seems to be the plan most popular with our Board.

Our branches cost us more than they bring in. The 5th Ave. branch circulated 48,000 v., but we were disappointed in our reading-room; it was not well patronized; average attendance only 59 daily, the visitors came mostly in the day-time; the average for evening being only 16; and it costs us between \$4000 and \$5000.

Miss Coe. — What is the explanation why subscription library branches cost more than free library branches?

Mr. Peoples. — One explanation is that most people think they can be better served at the main

library, where the bulk of the books are. We get new books in the morning and they are ready to go out in the afternoon; and we believe that this is putting them into circulation quicker than is done in any other library.

Miss Coe. — We have spent more money than you the past year. We have spent \$12,000 for books, including the new books for the Bruce branch. Our circulation has been 230,000 v.

Mr. Peoples. — It is our general practice to have the new books that are advertised in the Thursday morning papers ready for circulation Thursday afternoon. The number we buy of each book varies of course with the popularity of the book. When "Lothair" was published we bought 700 copies, and 500 copies of "Little men." 60 copies is the largest number this year. No book has equalled the popularity of "Ben-Hur." I cannot now say how many copies we have bought of it, as they have come in from time to time to meet the demand, which is constant.

Miss Coe. — I am convinced that the usefulness of a library depends on its duplicates, but we have not the money to buy duplicates with.

Mr. Peoples. — I try to keep down the circulation of trashy books by buying only two copies, and for the same reason we omit them from our printed accession lists, but we put them in our card catalog.

Ms. Dewey. — Do you have solicitations from publishers to buy their books?

Mr. Peoples. — Not from publishers, but from the jobbers, as I can buy better from jobbers than from the publishers. I make it my special business to examine the evening and morning papers for the announcements of new books, and order the books each morning as soon as I have opened my mail.

Mr. Bowker. — I think the interest in this subject lies in the future rather than the present. Four cities occur to me at the moment in which the relations of the two classes of libraries are of special interest. In Boston there are the Boston Athenæum and the Public Library; in New York we have not got to the point of comparison, as we have no large public library to compete with the Mercantile; in Chicago the Newberry is to exist side by side with the Public Library; in Brooklyn we have three small free libraries in competition with the Brooklyn Library. It is a question whether the key to the problem is not to be found in the specialization of libraries. The public library cannot be on the jump to supply the demand as Mr. Peoples does — to meet the demand for great quantities as soon as published; or, as

in the Boston Athenæum, to accumulate valuable special books for those who are willing to pay for the use of them.

Mr. Dewey. — There is another type — the Mudie — but it is a question whether it will be introduced here. It is managed wholly from the commercial standpoint. Mr. Peoples takes the commercial standpoint only so far as it is educational and elevating. His library is open to all who pay the \$5 membership fee. Do you require any reference from applicants?

Mr. Peoples. — No; we judge an applicant by his appearance; we have sometimes refused an applicant. We get many subscriptions from visitors to New York, who merely come here to spend the winter. We do lose some books, but more through old members than by men whom we do not know.

Mr. Dewey. — We have then, broadly speaking, four types, the commercial (Mudie's), the mercantile (Mr. Peoples'), the proprietary (Boston Athenæum), and the free reference (Astor), before we reach the free public library. I think the mercantile has a distinct place, to supply books for pay. Do you allow more than one membership to a person?

Mr. Peoples. — We allow a duplicate membership for \$3, and subscribers can take extra books at 10 cents a week. We furnish books to five different clubs in New York. The Union League Club has 18 v., the Century 9 v., the University Club 9 v. on their tables. They change them every two weeks. They generally leave the selection to us. Often old books on special subjects are called for. We also supply the University Club of Baltimore with 18 v. The Mercantile Library of Baltimore applied to us, but we declined. The University Club of Philadelphia has also applied. We have applications from all over the country to send books by mail, which we could supply at cheaper postal rates.

Mr. Bowker. — It is a question whether a postal rate below the cost of transportation would be advantageous. It is a misfortune to a small community not to have a local book-store and library, and if the demand is partly met by postal supply from the large city libraries, the very people who should be foremost in promoting local library organization might have their motive taken away. In England, however, Mudie's and Smith's libraries not only supply books all over the kingdom, but they invite subscriptions for 2, 3, 5, or 10 books at a time by making a lowered subscription rate for additional subscriptions. It is in fact the practice with many of the London

clubs, e.g., Mr. Tedder's Athenæum Club Library, to get all their new books from Mudie's, and use this supply as a means of testing what books should be put permanently on the shelves.

Mr. Dewey. — Cheap postage will take books to towns that have no public library, and the \$5 fee reaches only a very small number of people, and does no harm to the local library where it exists.

Mr. Bowker. — These people ought to be the chief supporters of their local free public library.

Mr. Dewey. — I think such a circulation from New York, say, would stimulate the demand for a local library.

Mr. Peoples. — Dr. Poole, I understand from him, waits for his English books till Mudie gets through with them. If this is so, I think Chicago people would like to come to New York for books.

Miss Coe. — I do not think the several types of libraries named by Mr. Dewey, if properly conducted, need interfere with each other at all.

Mr. Biscoe. — Will not the Athenæum and Mercantile types be the most likely to consolidate?

Mr. Dewey. — The Athenæum stockholders make a sort of private club; a coterie of people who do about as they choose; people who are willing to pay for the special privileges which they enjoy.

Mr. Hill. — We could get hold of an Association in Newark that we could "down" easier than we can Mr. Peoples' library. The Newark Library Association, although rich enough to put up a fine new building, are trying to merge in the new Free Public Library. They have two members of their board on the board of trustees of the public library.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Treasurer reported: Receipts \$70.88; expenditures \$57.98; balance on hand \$12.90.

Pres. Poole referred to the postponement of the A. L. A. meeting for this year.

Mr. Dewey announced that Mr. Crunden finally recommended April 9, 1889, for the date of the meeting in St. Louis. He said that answers were coming in to the proposition for a meeting this summer made in the last issue of L. J.; that Mr. Cutter's idea was to have an oral conference, omitting the annual reports. An informal vote showed that eight of those present were in favor of such a meeting.

Adjourned at 5.45.

C: ALEX. NELSON, Secretary.

Library Economy and History.

BOSTON. Public Lib. building, Copley Square (In *Globe*, Ap. 5.) 1 col. and il. — The new Public Library. (In *Herald*, Ap. 5.) 1 col. and il. — The new public library. (In the *Advertiser*, Ap. 23.) $\frac{3}{4}$ col. — The public library. (In the *Beacon*, Ap. 21.) $\frac{1}{2}$ col. — The public library. Annual report of the trustees. (In the *Advertiser*, Ap. 24.) $1\frac{1}{4}$ col. — Public literature. Report of Library Trustees. (In *Globe*, Ap. 24.) $1\frac{1}{2}$ col. — The new public library. (In *Herald*, Ap. 25.) $\frac{3}{4}$ col.

CANTON, O. Another plan for a Public Library building suggested. (In the *Repository*, March 26.) $\frac{3}{4}$ col. Signed C.

CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY. Judged by the binding. Why young ladies go to the Congressional Library for light literature. (In *Washington Star*, March 31.) $\frac{1}{2}$ col.

"Many mothers who are shocked at a paper-backed edition of 'She,' and are made uncomfortable by 'Thorns and orange blossoms' in yellow, and close their doors upon 'Was it a sin?' 'Saved her honor,' and similar books in cheap editions, receive the same volumes with cordial welcome, if put in a dress suit and stamped 'Congressional Library.'"

DEWEY, Melvil. The new library movement. (In the *Epoch*, Ap. 6.) $2\frac{1}{4}$ col.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. In annual session. Meeting of the officers of the Polytechnic Public Library. (In the *Journal*, Ap. 17.) $1\frac{3}{4}$ col.

NELSON, C; Alex. Library legislation. (In *Appletons' Annual cyclopaedia*, 1888.) 3 p.

NEW YORK. Cooper Union. A day spent in study. Sketches of the characters met with in the Cooper Union reading-room. (In the *Press*, Ap. 15.) 1 col.

NEW YORK. The Press Club Library. (In the *Journalist*, Ap. 28.) $1\frac{3}{4}$ col.

PALMER, Arthur H. Adelbert's Library: how the 25,000 v. it contains have been collected. (In *Cleveland Leader*, Ap. 2.) $1\frac{1}{2}$ col.

PARIS. Valuable old mss. Return of those stolen from the National Library. (In *Boston Herald*, Ap. 8.) $1\frac{1}{2}$ col.

PHILADELPHIA. Where apprentices read. . . . Sketch of a very worthy institution. (In *Evening telegraph*, Ap. 24.) $\frac{1}{2}$ col.

RILEY, Geo. S. The Reynolds' Library. . . . Foundation of this institution and those that preceded it. (In *Rochester Union and Advertiser*, Ap. 17.) 2 col. +.

THEY live in libraries. Some of the queer characters who read public books. (In the *New York World*, Ap. 1, 1888.) 1 col.

Wholly fictitious; a ridiculous mass of imagination, evidently written by a reporter who had nothing better to do. — *N.*

REPORTS.

Albany, N. Y. F. M. C. A. Added 708 v.; circulation 41,967 v.

Augusta, Me. Lithgow Lib. Whole no. 5517 v.; annual subscribers 361; circulation 16,833 v.

"Special efforts have been made during the past year to accomplish as far as possible the difficult task of obtaining books having the interest of fiction but dealing mainly with practical topics."

Bristol, R. I. Rogers F. L. Added 729 v.; whole no. 9597 v.; circulation 24,953 v.; average daily issue 82 v.; number of persons entitled to use the library 3292. 52 periodicals on file. Receipts \$1638.99; expenditures, \$1566.58.

Brackton (Mass.) P. L. Circulation 43,476 v.; average per day 142 v.; history and biography .06; literature .07; fiction .47; juvenile fiction .21; added 1172 v.; whole no. 12,218 v., and 2923 pm. Visitors to reference-room 1015; to reading-room 5615; to periodical reading-room 36,244; there are 14 dailies, 29 weeklies, and 29 monthlies on file.

Brookline (Mass.) P. L. Added 1068; total 32,700; issued 52,025.

"The reference work of the year has been unprecedented in our history, frequently engaging the librarian as well as assistants in pursuit of the more difficult subjects of inquiry, thus developing an enthusiasm for the work among ourselves and awakening a hearty appreciation of the worth of the library among the many who seek its aid.

"To those of us who have known the valuable contents of the library, and who have long lamented the comparative disuse of its better grade of books, this increased and increasing demand for them affords great satisfaction and hopefulness.

"The overcrowded state of the shelves, which detracts from the orderly appearance of the books, disarranges the classification, and, in a hasty search for books, often leads to errors. This anomalous condition of having more books than shelf-room cannot be maintained for any length of time without serious detriment to the best interests of the library. It would therefore seem the part of a wise and practical economy to provide speedily and generously for an extension of the book-hall, so as to double its present capacity. Such a plan would permit a complete rearrangement and reclassification of the library, placing it at once upon a basis for another twenty years' growth without further alteration or expense, or any of the temporary expedients which add so much to the cost, without equivalent in permanent value, and which, sooner or later, must give place to the right thing. Sixteen

years ago the library underwent a thorough rearrangement which has carried it smoothly along until the present time, and your librarian hopes for the opportunity and privilege of remodelling it once more, bringing to the work the gathered experience of all these years, and pledging her best efforts to the fulfilment of the task.

"The reading-room continues to increase in popular favor, it one may judge from the number of readers seen daily at its tables. Few town libraries afford such a liberal supply of periodical literature, and fewer still afford the advantage of having the latest numbers lying at hand upon the reading-room tables, ready to be picked up and used without the formula of written application and registry. The room itself has a bright and attractive air, with its sunny windows, its pictures and portraits, and its inviting array of magazines and reviews; if we could but add 'perfect quiet' to these attractions, we should indeed have quite an ideal reading-room."

Brooklyn (N. Y.) L. The thirtieth annual meeting of the Brooklyn Library, a full description of which appeared in the *Tribune* of Sunday, March 18, was held March 29. Gen. Alfred C. Barnes, President of the Board of Directors, read the annual report. It showed that the number of volumes at present is 97,371, of which the circulation was 108,811, a decrease of 3341 in the year. The largest number circulated in any one day was 735. In the reference department are 1100 volumes, which were consulted 85,000 times. The attendance in the reading-room was 100,000. The addition to the books in the year amounted to 4141, costing \$5047. The present number of members is 3282. In the last year the library has lost by death such life members as James How, R. H. Manning, Alfred S. Barnes, Seymour L. Husted, Joseph H. Moffatt, and Henry E. Pierrepoint. The new card catalogue was referred to as a notable addition to the resources of the library. The decrease of membership was said to be due to the increase of cheap literature and the addition of several free libraries in the last few years with increased resources. The need of adequate endowment so that the fee could be reduced from \$5 to \$3 was urged. The report of Treasurer J. L. Morgan showed receipts of \$20,588.40 and expenditures of \$20,163.19. The Rev. John W. Chadwick, R. R. Bowker, and the Rev. Dr. E. R. Thwing made speeches. — *N. Y. Tribune*.

Buffalo (N. Y.) Library. Added 3191 v.; circulation 5000 v. greater than in 1886. Whole no. 58,485 v. and 4956 pamphlets. Present membership 2888. Total cost of the library building \$378,628.97. Mr. Larned would like a department including the best works and periodicals in eight of the higher branches of study. The spreading needs of the city demand it. A "reading-room for the best books," the classics of the classics, is also needed, but cannot now be provided.

Canaan (Ct.) Book Club. Opens its 13th year with 29 members. There is one book for each member, and each book may be kept two weeks, when it is passed on to the next member.

At the end of the year the books are sold at auction, and a fresh lot put in circulation. The club now has a surplus of about \$100, which will eventually go to the benefit of the Douglas Library.

Canton (O.) P. L. 2700 v. on hand; 200 v. offered as gifts, and money enough subscribed to buy 3000 v. more, but have shelf-room for less than 2500 v. Over 2300 persons have cards; circulation over 80 v. a day; over 100 daily visitors to reading-room. Receipts \$731.65; expenditures \$767.12. The question of putting a second story on the market-house for the use of the library is agitated.

Chicago, Ill. Newberry L. The (1st) semi-annual report of the trustees states that \$40,000 has been appropriated for a library building to be erected on the site of the old Newberry home-stand. It is their intention to occupy so much of the site or make the immediate provision sufficient for twenty-five years, and to begin the erection of the buildings the present year. Dr. Poole in his report says the purpose of the trustees has not been to collect a general library of books in the market at all times, but to arrange the basis of a well-catalogued large library, and at the same time to secure such books as are not easy to find when they are wanted. The primary work will be to interest students; subsequently the seekers after rare and curious books. 6457 v. have been collected at a cost of \$11,238.30. They include 4500 v. of Americana, 584 works on bibliography, 103 dictionaries, 54 cyclopaedias; there are also 4907 pamphlets. 359 v. and 742 pm. were gifts; two-thirds of the remainder were bought at the Guild sale in Boston. The library is to be opened in temporary rooms on Ontario St.

Cincinnati. Y. M. Merc. L. Assoc. Added 1098; issued 63,363 (fig. 30,242). The endowment fund is \$31,013.33.

Columbus (O.) P. L. (15th annual rpt.) Added 2233 v.; total 21,579 v.; membership 8373. "Tables have been prepared by Asst. Librarian John Pugh showing the entire number of vols. issued from the various departments during the year, by months, and the increase and decrease in the several departments during the same period. The classification of the books issued in the several departments and the percentage of the different classifications in each department are all clearly shown." The percentage for fiction is a little over 31 per cent. A big day's work means issuing 1500 v., 150 books an hour for three men, or two and one-half books per minute.

Detroit P. L. Added 12,080; total 80,167; home use 181,921; lib. use 22,245.

"The Detroit Public Library already ranks high among the public libraries of the United States, being exceeded in number of volumes by Boston, Cincinnati, and Chicago alone. There are fourteen other libraries in the country having a larger number of books, but they are not of the class known as public libraries—that is, supported at the public expense and free to every resident of the city.

"Beside securing many periodicals of a special

class, such as science, medicine, philosophy, religion, etc., an effort has been made to get nearly everything covered by Poole's Index.

"In spite of misgivings in some quarters, the library was opened in March, 1886, for Sunday afternoon and evening reading. The library is closed for circulation of books, but all the other departments are open. After nearly two years' experience with the Sunday opening I can commend it most heartily. It is pleasant indeed to look into the reading-room on Sunday afternoon or evening and see it filled with people, sometimes a clergyman or two among them, quietly perusing a magazine or book. It is also a pleasant thing for those who have no such cosy quarters in which to read, or no such sample list from which to select their reading-matter, to come to the library for an hour or two on Sunday.

"The whole number of Sunday readers during the year was 5216, an average of a trifle over 100 for each Sunday, the general average for weekdays being upwards of 171.

"Since August the main library-room has been lighted by the Edison Illuminating Co. This has been regarded in the nature of an experiment, both as to the character of the light and the expense. The cost of wiring the building (\$400) was assumed by the Commission. The expense of the light thus far has not varied much from that of gas in the corresponding months of the preceding year. The light is generally more satisfactory than gas, especially on account of the ease with which the lamps are lighted and can be carried about, being supported with flexible cord. It is certainly preferable to gas in the matter of smoke and soot. Neither does it vitiate the atmosphere nor increase the temperature."

Dover (N. H.) P. L. Added 894.

"It is found in the management of public libraries generally that after the first year the circulation will gradually decrease for a few years, and then remain substantially the same for a time, and then commence to increase or not, according to whether the place in which the library is situated is increasing in population. We believe that this library has reached its period of low circulation and has assumed a place of usefulness and taken a place as an educator among us which it will never be allowed to abandon."

Dubuque, Ia. Young Men's Lib. Assoc. Added 328 v.; whole number 12,861 v.; circulation 13,136; literary miscellany 1776; biography and travels each 644; history 633; science and arts 605; poetry 304; religion 243.

Haverhill (Mass.) P. L. Added 1859 v.; whole no. 44,375 v. New shelves for about 15,000 v. have been put up recently. Income from Hall fund for purchase of books \$3562.89; for current expenses, \$2624.27; from dog tax, \$1495.15. Expenses \$5949.76; net cost to the city \$1830.44. Bulletin no. 2 is now in press.

Iowa State L. In its closing hours the Legislature of Iowa appropriated \$1000 for the care and preservation of the Aldrich Collection in the State Library. This will insure the continual growth of this valuable collection of autographs,

etc., which has been repeatedly noticed in these columns. — *Critic*.

Jefferson County L. Assoc. (24th rpt.) Added 350; total 9850; issued 9211, being 731 more than last year. Among the sources of income is "Proceeds of social hop . . . \$55.25;" among the expenses is "Paid on librarian's salary of \$312.00 . . . \$266.62."

Lancaster (Mass.) Town L. Added 1316; total 19,319; issued 12,974. The list of the proportionate use of fiction is headed by W. T. Adams, M. J. Holmes, L. M. Alcott; Thackeray, Dickens, and Scott come low down in the second half; and it is closed by George Eliot, Bulwer, and Miss Murfree. "The library has bought Dr. S. Willard's 'Complete body of divinity,' a work of the first college graduate of Lancaster. It may now be reckoned, we suppose, among the books that are dead. Yet if any one query whether it be really worth the half dollar we paid for it, or why we should care for the painted lineaments of any man, however dignified by wisdom, bravery, or virtue, but whom we never knew or saw, a sufficient answer may be found in the fact that we are creatures, not of reason only, but of sentiment also; are influenced quite as much by what appeals to feeling as by that which addresses the understanding; that a slight wind of imagination, fancy, or affection may move us as greatly as the utmost stress of logic, and that every well-regulated mind responds to the famous utterance of the great English moralist: 'To abstract the mind from all local emotions would be impossible, if it were endeavored, and foolish, if it were possible. Whatever makes the past, the distant, or the future predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings. That man is little to be envied whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plain of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona.' . . .

"It is our settled rule, as your trustees, to allow no circulation of what is not at least innocent. We provide not only what is the best absolutely, but the best also with which those who use the library will be content. More than this we cannot do. People will not, in the long run, read what they do not want to. And, no doubt, they take from their reading, however miscellaneous, all that is distinctively new or interesting or useful to them and let the rest go. Perhaps the let-alone course is the true one after all. Whether it be so or not it is at any rate the only one which we, as a committee, can adopt. 'Gathering knowledge is to the mind of man what the gathering of honey is to the bee. We do not interfere with the bees in their work, why should we with human intelligences?'

"The question is discussed: 'How shall the Public Library be made most helpful to the schools?' That it may in a good degree be made helpful should be evident, and how more so may well be a subject of earnest inquiry. We are never to forget, however, that education is not the mere imparting of knowledge, but, in very large measure, the working of influences of which we are unconscious and of which no note is taken; the persuasion of the constant and implicit,

though silent witness to a higher life, of whatever things are true, honorable, right, pure, and lovely; that 'it is in effect,' as Lord Bacon has said, 'but an early custom.'

Manchester (N. H.) City L. Added 778 v.; whole no. 30,307 v.; circulation 50,335 v. The number delivered for use in the library was somewhat larger than the year before. Appropriations for 1887 \$3800; paid for books \$1000; incidental expenses \$2719.03. A committee has been appointed to investigate the matter of re-shelving and reclassifying the library preliminary to the compilation of a new catalog.

Mass. Historical Society. Total 33,000 v., 84,000 pm.

Mass. State L. Added 2513 v., 2951 pm.

Merc. L. Co. of Phila. Added 3076; total 158,637; issued 111,689.

"The list of historical novels now covers America, England, Scotland, Ireland, and a part of France. For these countries it is by far the most extensive and valuable list that has ever been prepared. Those who desire to enliven the somewhat prosaic study of history by pictures of the state of society and of manners, will find this list a very useful help. And those who wish for some light reading of a more satisfying and not less really entertaining character than much of the purely imaginative fiction of the day will find these lists a rich storehouse.

"The diminution from year to year of our membership list, and of our income, forces on our attention the question of the future of our library; the causes of the present retrogression and the possibility of a returning era of prosperity. It is to be borne in mind that when this library was established, and for many years after, there were, in the country, no libraries that were freely opened to the general public; and the few that were in existence were available to only a small constituency, and exerted a very limited influence on the community at large. Within a few years in a considerable number of our States laws have been enacted authorizing towns and cities to levy taxes for the establishment and maintenance of circulating libraries free to all citizens. Under these laws many libraries have been opened; and quite extensively public libraries have come to be regarded as a very important, if not necessary, part of the system of education. And within a few years private munificence has endowed many libraries that are absolutely free to all the local public for all time. As a result of these causes chiefly, if not solely, it has been made manifest that no library can be maintained on a proprietary basis. The free public library has taken so firm a hold on the public mind that it is vain to expect any library to be self-sustaining. Numbers of such libraries have gone down before the march of free libraries, or have been swallowed up by them. And the few that are still prospering owe their existence to large endowments.

"It should never be forgotten that this institution was established as a charity, and has always been maintained as such. At the very beginning, and throughout all its history, it has been in the

receipt of gifts of books and money, though unfortunately in amounts wholly inadequate to its needs, given to it with the distinct intent that the benefits of the institution might be brought within the reach of young men and others of limited means. And it is because of the aid thus furnished by benevolent and public-spirited citizens that the library has been able to open its rich and abundant treasures at so small a cost to its members. And in the same way libraries in other places that have been nominally supported on a subscription, or a proprietary basis, have really depended to a greater or less extent upon current gifts, or on the income of endowments.

"It is well for us therefore to recognize the truth that the time has passed for our library to depend for its maintenance upon income derived from those who use it; that if it is to advance to a position of greater influence in the community, or even to sustain its present standing, it must have a largely increased endowment."

Middlesex Mechanics' Assoc. L. Added 157; total 20,650; issued 10,229 (fict. 73%).

"Only one list of books added has appeared. It is dated June 14, 1887, and is the 15th thus far published. To the editors of the *Lowell Daily Courier* we are again indebted for their valuable cooperation in this work. Copies were sent to several persons supposed to be interested in it and the following paper was prefixed: 'The lists published from time to time in this paper are intended to give to those who have not the time to read even a few of the current publications, an idea of some of the leading ones; secondly, to point out to students sources of information, whether new or old, on various subjects; thirdly, to awaken an interest in books among those who are forming habits of reading. When the notes are not full enough, the reviews from which they are taken, being indicated by dates and pages, can be readily referred to in the library. Most of the French books herein mentioned relate to important periods of history.'

Newark (N. J.) L. Assoc. (41st rpt.) Added 623; total 28,264; issued 28,834. An appeal is made to the public to take up the \$17,750 of the 50,000 capital stock authorized by the charter. A new card catalog is preparing by G. J. Hagar. Books cataloged 6352, cards written 10,631. In fiction the cards average 2 to a vol., in other works from 3 to 65 to a vol.

Newburyport (Mass.) P. L. Added 638 v.; whole no. 24,365 v. 406 new holders of cards.

N. Y. Maimonides L. Added 1831; total 29,545; home use 37,287; lib. use, 2933.

"Nothing can be more deceptive than the totals of works given out. It is not of so much importance to know how many books have been distributed, as it is to discover what is the nature of the literature that is put in the hands of the readers. It is, indeed, much to show for the money expended in maintaining the library, that from 40,000 to 50,000 volumes are annually placed in the homes of thousands of the members of the Order. It is, however, something very much more worthy of gratification that these volumes are mostly such as will bring en-

lightenment and culture in those homes; such as will fortify the intellectual and moral power of those who read them, rendering them more capable of coping with the grave problems of life, and to more fitly take their place among intelligent, thinking people as worthy representatives of our race.

"Of our circulation, 68½ per cent. was fiction, 7½ per cent. less than last year, and 16½ per cent. less than in 1883. The improvement is, however, still more remarkable in the English works circulated, of which only 53½ per cent. was fiction, being a reduction of 10 per cent. of last year. The proportionate demand for fiction is much larger among the readers of German than of English literature. The more solid works are sought by the English readers, who took out last year 2712 v. of history and travels, the Germans only 216, and 797 on science, the Germans only 64.

"But, while we emphasize the reference to this reduction in the comparative circulation of fiction, and the corresponding increase in the distribution of books of a more solid character, it is not with any purpose of underrating the importance and value of reading good fiction. This has been kept constantly in view, and must be, as long as it is true that in every popular library the majority of readers are devoted almost exclusively to the reading of novels. It might even be argued with good effect, that the reading of such works of fiction as are enumerated in the first column of Table IX. has as great a tendency to promote true mental culture as the wearisome perusal of dry and prosy historical and scientific writings. However this may be, it cannot be denied that their pages contain much that is elevating in tone, inspiring in thought, and instructive to mind and morals. That the readers are directed to such works instead of being left to the continuous mental subjection of an inferior class of novels, is an achievement which may well cause a feeling of satisfaction to the members of the Order.

"The great success of the Anglo-Jewish Exhibition held during the past year in London has attracted universal attention, and has already resulted in causing the initial steps being taken towards forming an organization for the collection of original material relating to the history of the Jews in England. Similar work on the history of the Jews in America could well and worthily be undertaken by the Maimonides Library. What is needed is a complete collection of all printed matter relating to this subject; every report of every institution, every book or pamphlet written by a Jew or about the Jews. Then would come a most important feature of the collection, viz.: Manuscripts. This would include transcripts from the minutes of every Jewish congregation, giving a full history of each from the time of its organization; copies of the inscriptions on gravestones of all Jews, bearing dates earlier than the present century; and finally, genealogical tables and histories of Jewish families settled in America prior to the present century."

Norfolk (Va.) Lib. Assoc. Whole no. of vols. 6500; circulation 3026 v. Receipts \$464.30; dis-

bursements \$462.04. The agreement with the Y. M. C. A. provides that the library shall have a room, fuel, lights, and a librarian and janitor free of cost, the library to be open every day except Sunday; the books to be taken care of by the Association, the room to be used for annual and other meetings; the Lib. Assoc. to retain its organization and the general management of its affairs, and the members of the Y. M. C. A. to have the use of the library without cost. The annual assessment was placed at \$2, and under the new arrangement all of the income will be available for the purchase of books.

North Easton, Mass. Ames Free Lib. Added during 1887 481 v.; total 11,872; circulation 13,181 v.; fiction 6121; juvenile 3468; description and travels 475; biography 480; history 468; art, fine and industrial, 447. Whole number of patrons 1099. Collected for fines and damages \$34.26.

Olneyville, R. I. F. P. Lib. Assoc. Receipts, \$1576.29; balance \$983.62; no. of v., 1846; patrons 840; average daily circulation 30 v.; daily visitors to the reading-room 40. An application has been made to the Legislature for a new charter.

Orange (N. J.) F. L. (4th rpt.) Number of vol. increased from 1363 to 2539; circulation 12,944 v.; fiction diminished 8 per cent.; only 2 books lost. "Ben-Hur" has been out 110 times; "Dr. Claudius," 57 times; Mrs. Custer's "Boots and saddles," 44 times. "The work will soon be cramped by the limited space of a small house, and the value of the books become too great to be risked in a frame building. Is the work, which is no longer an experiment, but a positive factor in the advancement of the intellectual and moral education of this city, to be restricted to narrow bounds, or will some kind friend make it possible to establish this institution, and let it better fulfil its purposes? This can never be accomplished until a suitable fire-proof building is owned by its trustees."

Pateron (N. J.) P. L. Added 1700 v.; total 8700 v.; not including 700 v. of public documents; circulation 72,182 v.; 19 v. lost; 150 to 200 daily visitors to the reading-room. City appropriation \$7813.40; balance on hand \$3226.36. Total issue of cards 6626.

Rutland (Vt.) F. L. Added 498 v.; total 4425 v.; lost 3; cards issued to Feb. 1 2703. Eighteen teachers are making use of teachers' cards, drawing 54 books for special use in schools. Circulation 30,582 v.; fiction 68 per cent. More room needed. An entertainment, "Longfellow's dream," given on two evenings in December, netted \$238.39. The town meeting in March, 1887, voted a tax which brought in nearly \$1500. Mrs. Julia C. R. Dorr is the president of the Lib. Assoc.; Miss Julia P. Humphrey, librarian; Miss Titcomb, asst. libn. and cataloger.

San Francisco, Merc. Lib. Assoc. (35th rpt.) Added 1362; total 57,054; issued 33,164 (fiction and juv., 70.32 %). The association is in debt \$6500, \$3500 of which was incurred during the year just passed.

"The experiment of reducing the quarterly

dues from \$3 to \$1.50 went into effect in December, 1885. Then we had 507 paying members. This number had rapidly decreased from over 1700 in 1875, and seemed likely to continue doing so. The first year showed a net gain of 177 members; this year ends with an increase over that of 35, giving us a membership larger by 215 than we had at the date of the change. This increase is, of course, less than was hoped for from so material a reduction in rates as one-half, and is insufficient to accord us as great a revenue as we would have enjoyed from the old rate could we have retained our membership at the same figure; but that we would have done so is improbable.

"Naturally, with a constantly diminishing income, consequent upon a declining membership, and, with still more reason, when our revenue was suddenly halved by the reduction of rates, a line of retrenchment in our purchases, deemed consistent with the circumstances, was marked out, and has been adhered to as closely as possible. No elaborate and costly works have we purchased, and we have denied ourselves many of the valuable and important issues of the day on the score of economy.

"The ultimate benefit of this policy, long continued, may be questioned. The attractions of a library well supplied and constantly replenished cease when the supply is withheld. People who read, the patrons of libraries, seek the new; the latest thing in biography and history, the freshest works in travel and discovery; the most recent developments in science, and the latest novel. In just so far as we fail in providing such as these, in so far do we fail, not only to attract to our rooms those who could be drawn, but even to satisfy and retain many already with us. Without the attraction of new and pertinent material to offer our patrons we can hardly expect to retain them, much less to attract new ones. People will go and pay their money where are offered the greatest advantages. Economy, in certain emergencies, may prove too dear. It may be called bad business policy to allow our expenditures to exceed our income, but library economy has many features not found in a purely commercial business, and, even there, how often are thousands of dollars expended most lavishly, looking to returns in the distant future. We have arrived at a very reduced point in our career, in the matter of support, though the advantages we offer are as good as any, and unimpaired, and before us is the difficult task of regaining our membership and our support. This we can hardly hope to accomplish by any extreme curtailment of the privileges and advantages offered to the public. The lapse of a few years of such a policy only serves to bare to the light an impoverished stock and lack of material at command. Our energies should be exhausted first in devising some ways and means whereby all the requisites of a desirable library can be continued, before all hope is abandoned and a suicidal system of curtailment adopted and carried out to its inevitable end."

Taunton (Mass.) P. L. (22d rpt.) Added 2063; total 27,584; issued 59,899 (fict. and juv. 48,753).

Toledo (O.) Law Lib. Contains over 4000 v. of law reports, English and American. Miss Jennie Fisk, librarian.

Toledo (O.) P. L. Added 2312 v.; total 21,775 v.; circulation 113,458 v.; showing 4,58 drawings to each volume; 308 v. worn out; 14 v. lost and paid for; Sunday visitors to reading-room 1413. Receipts \$8111.45; disbursements \$8210.49.

Trenton, N. J. State Lib. Added 1338 v. and pm. "In accordance with the increased interest of pottery decorators and others in the valuable art works in the library, the commissioners have added to the list 'The ornamental arts of Japan,' at an expense of \$200."

Trenton, N. J. The Union Lib. 140 v. have just been added. New books are placed on a table bearing the sign, "Readable books." Four monthlies have been added to the list of periodicals, and a paper in the interest of potters. 1259 v. were circulated in Feb. and 1901 persons visited the reading room. The issuing of books by cards has been substituted for the ledger account method of charging.

Wilmington, Del. Institute Lib. Added 854 v.; total 16,484 v.; circulation 33,119 v. A card catalog is nearly completed. There are 663 members, about the same as twenty-five years ago; the number of volumes has trebled and the circulation is twice as large as in 1863. "The record shows that the holders of our prize membership tickets in the high school and drawing school are making good use of the library and warrant the continuance of awarding the prizes."

NOTES.

Edited by C. Alex. Nelson.

Baltimore, Md. The Merc. L. has been firmly reestablished and is now one of the most attractive resorts in the city. The books are conveniently arranged by classes, and the furniture has been selected with admirable taste.

Boston, Mass. Boston, March 17 (Special). — This is St. Patrick's Day, but it is not a legal holiday. Nevertheless, Mayor O'Brien has assumed the responsibility for closing the public library, and that, too, on a day of the week when more people than on any other day or evening visit that institution. Hundreds of citizens have been disappointed by this action of the Mayor, and it is safe to say that few of his official acts have caused more general condemnation by the people of Boston than this. The most intelligent Irishmen even of his own party condemn the act as at least unwise and unnecessary. — *N. Y. Tribune.*

Boston, Mass. Y. M. C. A. At Mr. Cable's lecture recently delivered in Boston, books served as admission tickets. The purpose of the lecture was to secure a library for the Young Men's Christian Association.

Bayonne, N. J. An enthusiastic public meeting was held April 2 at which the following resolution was adopted: "Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that the question of a free

public library be submitted to the voters of this city, and that a committee of five be appointed to wait upon the Council to ask that a special election be ordered for that purpose and to act as a campaign committee in favor of the project."

The tax provided by the State law, one-thirtieth of one cent on every dollar, will yield \$2500 for library purposes.

Brooklyn. The *Brooklyn Library* is open on Sundays from 2 until 9 o'clock p.m., and numbers of people avail themselves of its privileges. This library has now 100,000 v. on its shelves and 300 periodicals on file in its reading-room.

Buffalo (N. Y.) Library. The Executive Committee at their meeting April 7 took action relative to the death of David Gray, and appropriate resolutions were adopted.

Camden, N. J. The Superintendent of Public Schools proposes to the Board of Education that the school library money for the fourteen public schools of the city, \$560 in all, be expended annually in the purchase of books for a central public school library free to all the teachers and scholars of the city, to be fitted up by the board.

Charlottetown, P. E. I. A public meeting was held in the city council chamber on the evening of April 6 to arrange for establishing a public library. The Y. M. C. A. have offered to provide a room for books, and to have the library cared for by a competent secretary.

Chicago (Ill.) P. L. Two vacant rooms opposite the Council Chamber are to be fitted up as a reading-room at a cost of \$9400 including the cost of bookcases for the present reading-room, for the keeping of books having the least circulation.

Cleveland (O.) P. L. The library board have contracted with the Cleveland Printing and Publishing Co. to print 2500 copies of the new catalog of the circulating department for \$2244. The catalog will contain about 800 p., and the printing will begin on or before April 1.

Columbia College Library. Mr. Dewey had on May 7 what he calls his "wooden wedding with Columbia." That day curiously chanced to be at once the trustees' meeting and the same day of the week and of the month on which he took office five years ago. By happy chance, on this day the trustees for the first time granted the entire sum asked for in all the library appropriations, and also provided funds to build and equip the two elevated reading rooms which will afford private desks for some 40 readers. Also to put in extra galleries and shelving on the 6th floor. They raised the appropriations for incidentals from \$1500 to \$2000, salaries from \$16,000 to \$17,725 and, most important, books from \$7500 to \$15,000. As the fixed charges for nearly 600 serials taken, binding, etc. are about \$5000, it has left only \$2500 for new books. This will leave \$10,000 and four times as many new books can be bought next year. The Columbia staff were therefore highly elated at this substantial increase, which indicates a purpose on the part of the trustees to give the library a chance to push to the front. Beside the \$38,000 appropriated, repairs, heat,

light, insurance, 2 janitors and 2 boys, cleaning, etc., are paid from general funds. Were rent counted, the annual expenses would be over \$50,000.

Notwithstanding this favorable outlook, in fact the new books to be bought will require more extra labor in buying and preparing for the shelves than the total additions for salaries, so that the staff will be pressed even harder than this year, and many a library with smaller appropriations will have a much easier year's work. The long hours of opening require two sets of officers, thus doubling this charge, and the unusual privileges accorded readers add to the necessary running expenses. The liberal appropriations result therefore in making extra labor for a staff that has made a reputation for hard work.

Cornell University Lib. (Ithaca, N. Y.) An appropriation of \$200 has recently been made to the department of Philosophy, the most of which will be used in purchasing books relating to the philosophy of Kant. It is intended that the library shall sooner or later contain a complete bibliography of Kant—at present comprising some 500 volumes. Constant additions are being made to the law library. A set of Kansas Reports was recently received. Other additions include a number of valuable text-books. The library has been increased nearly 1500 volumes the past year.

Detroit, Mich. "Fresh Detroit aldermen generally begin their career by attacking the public library. After hearing from their constituents, they generally end by letting it alone. Symptoms of this aldermanic mumps or measles are appearing in the new board. After they get over it they never have it again."—*Detroit Journal*, Mar. 10.

Detroit, Mich. The Medical and Lib. Assoc. has engaged a librarian and thrown its library of 3000 standard medical works open to the profession. All the current medical literature of the day of any value is to be found on its reading-tables. It is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Elletts (Me.) Library Association. Organized in October, 1887, in three months had nearly 800 active members, 100 honorary members, and \$600 towards a building fund. Its reading room is open two evenings in each week, and is well supplied. A room is stocked with a large number of interesting and instructive games which are much enjoyed by the young folks. Public entertainments are given every two weeks, and they are liberally patronized. At one entertainment the exercises were devoted to the poet Whittier, from whom the following letter to Miss Farmer, the secretary of the Association, was read:

OLAF KNOLL, DANVERS, 12th Mo. 11, 1887.

MY DEAR FRIEND: I am glad to hear of your Library Association, and that one of its fortnightly meetings is to be devoted to my writings. I hope that something may be found in them—apart from any question of literary merit or demerit—which is on the side of freedom, humanity, charity, and reverence for all good. I knew what it was to live in a country district where there were no libraries, public or private, and no

books or periodicals; and I am glad to hear of any movement for intellectual improvement in our country towns. What you are doing in Eliot would have been quite impossible when I was a boy. With thanks for thy kind letter I am, dear Miss Farmer, thy very sincere friend.

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Hagerstown (Md.) Lib. Assoc. The directors invite and urge citizens to avail themselves of the privileges offered by the opening of the library. Membership is one dollar a year. The reading-room and the use of the library for reference are free to the public. The library numbers more than 3000 v., which have been collected by the Thursday Club, a number of ladies incorporated under that name, who for several years have made steady efforts to conduct a public library.

Mahanoy City, Pa. A committee of the Knights of Labor having in charge a movement to establish a library and reading-room, for the use of the general public, have sent out a number of circulars requesting donations of books or money. The circular says: "Believing that knowledge is power and that free education is the basis of national freedom, we also consider this a means whereby a larger portion of the masses can be reached than, perhaps, any other."

Milwaukee P. L. The sub-stations established about a year ago have increased the circulation of the library to some extent, but not so much as was anticipated. They have increased the total circulation, while that of the main library has also increased. The cost of maintaining the sub-stations is about \$80 a month, and this amount is taken from the money appropriated for additions to the library.

New Jersey School Libraries. During the school year ending August 31, 1886, the amount of money raised for school libraries in Passaic County was \$528.25, which was exceeded by only one county — Hudson. The number of books in our school libraries was 5465, which was exceeded only by Bergen, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, and Morris. But in the number of books drawn from school libraries during the year Passaic County was far and away ahead. Her record was 25,812. Union coming next with 13,268. Hudson only showed 5298, and Essex 4620. The lowest was Mercer, whose scholars only drew 273 books from its public libraries during the year, and which had, in fact, only 672 books to draw from. — *Paterson Press.*

Newark, N. J. Y. M. C. A. \$600 has just been expended by the library committee in the purchase of new books, mainly works of reference, standard histories, and miscellaneous books of a high grade. This purchase will increase the library to nearly 1000 v.

Norfolk (Va.) Lib. Assoc. The library has been moved to the quarters provided in the Y. M. C. A. building.

Pasadena, Cal. Work on the new *Pub. Lib.* building has been suspended, owing to inability to procure Tehachapi green stone, the quarry having been thrown into litigation through some means. Considerable damage is sure to be the result to the unfinished walls. The building will

be very handsome when completed according to the plans adopted.

Passaic (N. J.) P. L. At the last municipal election the people decided to establish a free public library under the law of 1884. Trustees were appointed, and the certificate of organization was filed at Trenton, Dec. 30. The law allows one thirtieth of one per cent. on the valuation, which will give the library \$1200. This sum cannot be had until July 1. Meantime \$1400 has been raised by subscription, reading-rooms have been rented and supplied, and the library was opened Feb. 3. Books will be bought as soon as the city money is available.

The Peoria (Ill.) Public Library building, one of the finest in the city, belonging to a private corporation, was damaged by fire March 25, to the extent of \$5000, and all its occupants — merchants, doctors, lawyers, and dentists — suffered considerable loss, mostly by water. The public library was not reached by the fire, except in the reading-room and store-rooms, but half of its 30,000 volumes were removed and thrown in a confused heap in a public hall near by, and the other half were drenched with water, so that the library, which is run by the city free to the public, sustains a heavy loss. It is covered by insurance to the extent of \$8700. Mr. Soldan writes: "Our damage is principally in the departments of periodicals and fine arts, to both of which we had made large additions during the past year, and mostly by water. Nearly all of our fine art quartos and folios, as well as sets of periodicals, were soaked. The damage on books in dollars and cents will probably not exceed the insurance, but many volumes we cannot replace, and the extra work is great. It is worse than starting a new library. Can you tell me what I can do to make soiled bindings look better and to prevent mould, dry-rot, etc? I thought I had been through everything that could happen in a library, but fire is a new experience to me, and it is not a pleasant one."

Philadelphia. The Councils have for one dollar conveyed to the Trustees of the University of Pa. a lot of land on 36th Street, opposite the grounds of the University, on the condition that it shall be used for the erection of a library building, and that the library shall be maintained as a "great free public library of reference." Ground will be broken in the spring. There are several collections of books and pamphlets on special subjects, including Law, Medicine, and Political Economy, as well as a large general library. The library contains 40,000 bound v., and 60,000 pamphlets and other unbound books. The *Times* strangely blundered into publishing long articles on the purchase of the Von Ranke library for the University of Pa., on its arrival in this country on its way to Syracuse. The purchase of the philological library of the late August Friedrich Pott has just been effected. The library consists of 2900 titles and between 4500 and 5000 v., and is especially rich in the byways of philology. A notable feature of this library is its completeness.

Philadelphia Library Co. As soon as \$40,000 is guaranteed to cover the additional expense involved, Mr. H. C. Lea believes the directors will

vote to open the library to the public in the evening.

Philadelphia. The Mutchmore Lib. and reading-room, an adjunct of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, was opened Feb. 8. The library-room, which is an annex to the Bouvier St. front of the church, about 15 x 20 feet in size, was built by the pastor Rev. Dr. S. A. Mutchmore and Mrs. Mutchmore, at their own expense. The money for furnishing and the purchase of books was raised by a very successful fair. Some 1500 v. have been secured, classified, and cataloged, and the principal periodicals subscribed for. The reading-room is open on Wednesday and Saturday evenings free to all comers. Members of the church or Sabbath-school can take out books by paying \$1 a year; other persons, properly introduced, on payment of \$2 a year.

Philadelphia. The Pedagogical Lib. Mr. James MacAlister, Supt. of Schools, has collected a good working library during the past four years, for the use of his office. A large number of French works are included in the collection. An excellent catalog has just been issued, with biographical notes and references that will prove very valuable to teachers.

Pittsburg, Pa. Teachers' Lib. Established in the spring of 1885 by Supt. Luckey with \$350, the receipts of a children's jubilee concert, and 200 members were enrolled. At the end of a year the school-children gave four concerts, netting about \$850, which were expended in furnishing the present cosy and attractive quarters and for new books. Mr. W. Thom gave \$500 with the stipulation that none of the money should be used for works of fiction. A charter was obtained providing for a library committee of nine life members. It was formally opened in April, 1886. Mr. Andrew Carnegie gave \$500, and there were other gifts of money and books. The membership the first year was 204, the second 485, the third 567, about one-half the number being teachers. Books on science, travel, and history are tabooed entirely; fiction is the favorite reading-matter of the teachers; the case of books relating to the professional work of teachers is left severely alone. But the books of fiction read are of a high order and are selected with such care that self-improvement and pleasure are both afforded. Three copies of "Ben Hur" are in constant demand. 798 v. were circulated in Jan. The library is open Wednesday evenings and Saturdays; membership open to all at a nominal fee. The teachers are proud of it, and if the same enterprise marks its future as its past, the committee will endeavor to have it open each day. — KATIE EVANS in the *Despatch*.

Rochester, N. Y. The Court of Appeals Lib. contains about 12,000 v., mainly statutes, reports, digests, and treatises on special subjects. It is intended for the use of the judges, but it is also available for lawyers. This library is the main reliance of the courts and bar in western New York, although there are less valuable law libraries at Buffalo and Syracuse. It has two sources of income, an annual appropriation of \$600, and the interest on "the Court of Appeals

fund," which is now less than \$700 a year. Since 1880 no southern reports, statutes, or digests have been secured, and no Canadian reports have been purchased. European codes too are sadly wanting.

Savannah, Ga. The Knights of Labor are working vigorously at home and abroad to increase the number of volumes in their new library. Senator Colquitt has presented a large map of the U. S. and will send government documents.

Sioux Falls, Dak. The P. L. has been removed to Mr. Cook's music-store in the G. A. R. block, where it will be easily accessible day and evening, Mr. Cook acting as librarian for the present. Life membership \$10, with annual dues of \$1 after first year. Annual membership \$2.

Somerville, Mass. There is a demand for the establishment of branch libraries. The *Journal* suggests if "the idea is not practicable, then let some young man with enterprise undertake the business of delivering and returning books on his own account. The chances are that he would make it pay."

Toledo (O.) P. L. \$45,000 has been appropriated for a new library building, which will probably be erected in the rear of Memorial Hall.

Trenton, N. J. State Library. "The library is particularly indebted to Judge James M. Cassady, of Camden, for Philip Melancthon's *Livy* printed at Basle, Switzerland, in 1535. It is supposed to be the oldest printed book (!!!) in America, except the celebrated Gutenberg Bible of 1457, purchased by Mr. Brayton Ives, of New York, for \$15,000."

FOREIGN NOTES.

Bethnal Green F. L. The twelfth annual meeting of the supporters of the Bethnal Green Free Library was held on March 26. Lord Brassey occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Prof. Seeley, Mr. F. A. Devan (the treasurer), Mr. Haysman, etc. The report stated that the past year had been one of steady progress. The number of books presented during the year was 973, raising the stock to 35,106. The number of persons attending the library, lectures, and classes was estimated at 42,000. The income during the year was £532, and the expenditure £828. The report concluded with an appeal for funds for the contemplated building towards which it was stated that Sir H. Tyler had promised £1000. Lord Brassey announced his intention of becoming an annual subscriber, and said they must have schools of art and libraries like this planted in every part of the metropolis, and that he believed that the good work only needed to be known. The report was adopted, and votes of thanks to Lord Brassey and the Honorable Mabelle Brassey were passed.

British Museum. The statistics of the British Museum Reading-Room for 1887 and the previous years show the remarkable extent to which the public is availing itself of the benefits of that institution. During the past year the number of new tickets issued was 3799, being 156 more than last year, and that of temporary tickets 3491, an

increase of 44. The number of readers using the room was 182,778, being 5885 more than last year, and showing a daily average of 604. The following figures show the progressive increase during successive years over the preceding ones: 1882, 12,618; 1883, 6092; 1884, 1746; 1885, 4611; 1886, 17,553; 1887, 5885; giving an increase of very nearly 50,000 readers in the six years. The daily average of readers has increased steadily from 455 in 1881 and 486 in 1882 to 583 in 1886 and 603 in the past year. Coincident with this is the increase in the tickets for books placed in the baskets in the centre of the room. The daily average of these tickets in 1884 was 964; in 1885, 1055; in 1886, 1087; in 1887, 1163; showing an average increase of 199 works each day since 1884. — *Galvani's Messenger*.

— At the British Museum, during a recent fog in London, no books, except such as are in the galleries of the reading-room itself, were procurable for some days. The reading-room is lighted by electricity, but the mass of the library is not lighted at all, and on dark days no books can be obtained.

London. The Aylesford library realized over £11,000. Folio Shakespeares were the notable things of the collection, and Mr. Henry Irving was able to secure for £140 a very perfect copy, which was enriched by annotations of Dr. Samuel Johnson.

— Mr. Gladstone personally opened the "Gladstone Library" at the National Liberal Club, London, on May 2.

Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale. The authorities are much exercised to find space to accommodate their rapidly increasing collections. As a way out of the difficulty, arrangements have been made for a subsidiary storage library at Fontainebleau, to hold some of the less valuable of the copyright accessions, such as the successive unaltered editions of popular novels, church services and religious books, and provincial newspapers, which are duplicates of copies already preserved in the departmental libraries.

Rome. The first public library at Rome, and according to Pliny in the world, was erected by Asinius Pollio, in the atrium of the Temple of Liberty, on Mount Aventine.

Stalybridge has adopted the Free Libraries Act by a majority of 2 to 1, which is good so far as it goes, but as not a fifth of the voters took the trouble to record their votes, it is evident that Stalybridge wants a considerable waking up.

Toronto (Can.) P. L. At a recent meeting of the Board Sec. Bain announced the receipt of a letter from the Minister of Customs stating that it had been decided that it would not be well to interfere with the duty on books at present. Voted to ask the city council for an appropriation of \$3000, for library purposes. It was decided to close the western branch for repairs. Judge McDougall has been elected by the Public School Board to represent them on the Library Board.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

A new thing in library supplies is the Index Scrap File of H. Croker, Fairfax, Vermont, who has applied for patent. It is a device to file newspaper scraps in such wise that they may be classified and made readily accessible. It consists of a piece of stiff manilla paper folded in three, the third fold or flap being ruled into fifteen sections, mucilaged ready to be cut apart for the pasting of fifteen newspaper scraps so that the heading of each appears above the heading of that succeeding. The invention is a novelty which is difficult to describe, but we presume samples can be obtained from Mr. Croker. If the file can be furnished at a reasonable price, which is especially needful because if used at all it must be used in considerable quantities, it ought to be a useful library help.

Librarians.

BANCROFT, F. A., of New Hampshire, has been appointed by the Secretary of State to be Librarian of the State Department, vice Theo. F. Dwight resigned. The change takes effect June 1.

DWIGHT, Mrs. Clara E., has been elected Librarian of the Young Men's Library Association, of Dubuque, Iowa, to succeed Rev. H. Ficke, who resigned after having held the position twelve years.

DWIGHT, Theodore F., librarian of the State Department, has tendered his resignation, to take effect June 1, and it has been accepted. After that date letters of an unofficial character will reach him if addressed to Washington.

HAGAR, G. J., who has been engaged as assistant librarian of the Newark Lib. Assoc. in making a catalog of the library, has resigned and has accepted the position of editor of the *Cyclopedia of American contemporary biography*, to be issued serially. Mr. Hagar has edited a history of religious denominations and ceremonies entitled "What the world believes," New York (1886); prepared some 400 biographical sketches for "The story of a great nation," New York (1886); compiled a chronological history of the United States, New York (1887); contributed sketches to each of the volumes of Appletons' "Cyclopedia of American biography," New York (1887-8); and is now in charge, for the third year, of the American obituaries in Appletons' "Annual cyclopedia." His resignation was accepted with great regret, and especially as he could not complete a catalogue of the library, upon which he has been at work for several months. The committee deemed it unadvisable to appoint a permanent librarian until the association shall take possession of its new building in West Park Street, which it is hoped will be completed in the ensuing autumn. In the meantime, the Committee on the Library will be in charge, and Judge Ricord, a member of that committee, and for more than twenty years librarian of the institution, has been specially designated to have a general superintendence of affairs. It is understood that he will be in constant attendance dur-

ing the evenings, and at such times during the day as will not interfere with his other duties.

KELLAM, Mrs., assistant librarian of the Topeka, Kansas, P. L., has resigned after several years of faithful service. Her place will be filled by Mrs. Lewis.

PLUMMER, Miss M., Wright, a member of the first class of Col. Coll. Library School, and author of the account of the School "from a student's standpoint" in the Thousand Islands proceedings, has been appointed cataloger in the St. Louis Public Library.

TYLER, A. W., spoke May 4 before the Association for the Training of Teachers, at No. 9 University Place, New York, on "Books and Book-Making before the Invention of Printing."

Gifts and Bequests.

Astor Library. John Jacob Astor has transferred the irregular patch of ground on the south side of the Astor Library, in Lafayette Place, to the trustees of that institution. The nominal consideration mentioned in the transfer is \$1.

Bellows Falls (Vt.) P. L. Ex-Congressman W. A. Russell, of Massachusetts, has made the new library a gift of \$1000.

Boston, Mass. Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes has presented to the Medical Library, Boylston Place, his very valuable and extensive collection of medical books. The library already is so filled with books that, in order to accommodate this donation, which will cover 80 lineal feet of shelf-room, the librarian found it necessary to have built several additional shelves.

Canaan, Ct. The *Douglas Library* is to have a new fire-proof building, with ample accommodations for the library and reading-room, to be erected by Mr. Edmund D. Lawrence, who has already purchased a site. Work will begin as soon as the plans can be perfected.

Cincinnati, O. *Y. M. C. A.* For some time past the officers have been gathering volumes for a library. Their request for donations has been liberally responded to and several thousand vols. of history, travels, biography, and science have been collected, classified, arranged in cases, numbered and cataloged. The entire second story of the building is occupied by the reading-rooms and library, which were opened to the public on the evening of March 13.

Forest City, Dak. An appeal having been made by a resident of this town for new or second-hand books to form the nucleus of a public library, an effort was put forth by a few persons in Portland, Me., the Forest City of the East, and a generous contribution of literary matter was forwarded to the sister city.

Memphis, Tenn. The executors of the late F. H. Cossitt, of New York City, at the request of his family, have signified their intention to pay over to certain trustees the sum of \$75,000 on the 1st of October, 1888, out of moneys coming

to them from his residuary estate, for the purpose of establishing the free public library which he had under advisement at the time of his death. Mr. Napoleon Hill, of Memphis, one of the trustees, offers to be one of twenty-five to give \$2000 each to increase the amount. Capt. W. H. Wood, father-in-law of Mr. Hill, bequeathed \$1000 for a public library; there is a probability that a large sum will be raised by citizens to add to the endowment.

Mount Airy, Pa. *Memorial F. L.* Mrs. Charlotte Bostwick has deposited with the Fidelity Insurance Trust and Safe Deposit Co. a deed of trust, giving to the library the land and building occupied by it, with \$25,000, the income of which is to be devoted to its maintenance. The deed is revocable during the lifetime of Mrs. Bostwick, and in case the library is removed from the building the property is to revert to Mrs. Bostwick's heirs, or in case there be no heirs, to be transferred to the Germantown Dispensary and Hospital. The library was founded March 12, 1885, with 400 v. In 1886 Mrs. Bostwick erected the present building, and the library was moved in March 12, 1887. At the close of 1887 there were over 2000 v. and over 600 subscribers.

Orange (N. J.) F. L. An unknown friend has presented Appletons' Encyclopedia complete, including the Index and the annual volumes, 28 v. in all.

Paterson (N. J.) P. L. A lady friend has presented a copy of A. Racinet's "L'Ornement polychrome, 2^e série: Art ancien et asiatique, Moyen Age, Renaissance, 17-19^e siècles." Paris, 1887."

Pittsford, Vt. *The Maclure Lib.* Ex-Gov. Redfield Proctor, of Proctor, Vt., Feb. 15, enclosed, in a courteous letter to the selectmen of the town of Pittsford, his personal check for \$126.28, an amount which had been paid by Pittsford to Gov. Proctor in a settlement for town property. He further offered to make the sum \$300, if the town of Pittsford would appropriate the money to the purchase of new books for the Maclure Library. At a town meeting held March 6 a resolution accepting the generous offer was unanimously adopted. Whereupon Mr. W. H. Shaw stated that he was authorized by Gov. Proctor to say that he would add another \$100 to his gift if the town would do the same, thereby securing \$500 to the library. This offer was also unanimously accepted, and a committee was appointed to receive and disburse the money.

Rochester, N. Y. Mr. D. W. Powers intends to establish an extensive law library for the accommodation of the many lawyers whose offices are in his building. It will probably be located in the commodious rooms now occupied by the Abeland Club in the northeast corner of the fourth floor. "The thoroughness with which Mr. Powers accomplishes all his undertakings gives assurance that the library will be as complete as any in the country."

Spencer, Mass. At the town meeting, April 2, David A. Prouty presented a new high school building, to cost about \$30,000; Richard R.

Lugden offered a fine public library, to be erected at a cost of \$25,000 on property recently bought; and Judge Luther Hill gave 14 acres of land for a public park. The gifts were accepted and resolutions of thanks adopted by a unanimous vote.

Tilden's Contested Will. Joseph H. Choate made the final argument in the Tilden will case March 26. The counsel for the contestant were allowed until April 18 to send their brief to the counsel for the executors; the counsel for the executors have two additional weeks in which to finish their briefs, and then the contestant's counsel have the two following weeks in which to amend and add to their briefs. By that time it will be May 16. Judge Lawrence will then be occupied in Supreme Court Chambers. In June he will preside in Supreme Court, Circuit, Part I. He will not be able to take up the papers and law books in the Tilden will case until he begins his vacation in July. It will probably be the first of August, at least, before he will be able to announce his decision. — *Times*.

Cataloging and Classification.

CAVALOGUE général des mss. des bibliothèques publiques de France. Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal. Tome 3. Paris, 1888. 8°. 12 fr.

FRANCE, DÉPÔT DE LA GUERRE. Catalogue de la bibliothèque. Tome 5. Paris, 1888. 2+652 p. 8°.

The "St. Louis book-news" publishes from time to time lists of the recent additions to the Mercantile Library and the Public School Library.

NAMES.

Mrs. E. Burke Collins is now Mrs. Robert R. Sharkey. (Innumerable serials and short stories in the N. Y. weeklies.)

CHANGED TITLES.

The last of the Incas, a romance of the Pampas; by Gustave Aimard. Lond., 1868, Berger.

The last of the Aucas, a romance; by Gustave Aimard, revised by Percy B. St. John. N. Y., Lovell, n. d.

Some paragraphs and sentences are omitted in this issue; otherwise it is the same.

J: EDMANDS.

Heroic tales, by Helen Zimmern, is merely a small paper copy of the "Epic of kings," the one corresponding with the other page for page, and both published by Fisher Unwin.

M. SEYMOUR.

CORRECTED NAMES.

C. R. Lowell, signed to art. on "English and American federalism" in *Fortnightly* for Feb., is a misprint for Francis C. Lowell.

Mrs. Nina H. Kennard (Rachel, in Famous women series), not Mrs. Nina A. Kennard, as it appears on one of her title-pages.

FULL NAMES.

Levi Wood Baker (Hist. of the 9th Mass. battery);

Duane Hamilton Hurd (Hist. of Essex County, Mass.);

H: W: Brown (Trans. of Preyer's "Mind of the child");

Herbert Corey Leeds and James Dwight (Laws of euchre);

Ezra De Freest Simons (The 125th N. Y. State volunteers);

Albert Gardner Boyden (Hist. of the State Normal School, Bridgewater, Mass., to July, 1876);

Chester Twitchell Stockwell (The evolution of immortality);

W: Dudley Foulke (Slav or Saxon).

The following are supplied by two assistants in the Osterhout L., Wilkes-Barre. They rest, like most of those which we give, on the authority of the owners of the names:

Willis J: Abbot (Bluejackets of '61);

Mrs. Clara Emma (Griswold) Cheney (Young folks' history of the civil war);

H: Brooks Ellwanger (The rose);

Mrs. S.: J. Higginson (Princess of Java);

G: H: Holden (Canaries and cage-birds);

Emmeline Crane Jackson (Karl Kiegler; and Veronica);

T: Corwin Mendenhall (Century of electricity. B., 1887);

Mrs. M.: J. (Bailey) Lincoln (Boston cook-book);

Mrs. Annie E. (Pidgeon) Searing (Land of Rip Van Winkle);

J: T: Short (North Americans of antiquity);

Frank W: Taussig (History of the present tariff);

Telemachus T: Timayenis (Greece in the times of Homer; History of Greece; Language of the Greeks; Original Mr. Jacobs);

W: Robert Ware (Modern perspective);

G: Washington Williams (History of the negro troops in the war of the rebellion).

Bibliography.

ALLENDE SALAZAR, A. Biblioteca del Bascófilo; ensayo de un catálogo gen. sistemát. y crit. de las obras ref. á las provincias de Vizcaya, Guipúzcoa, Alava, y Navarra. Obra premiada por la Biblioteca Nac. en el concurso púb. de 1877. Madrid, M. Tello, 1887. 483 p. 4°. 11 pes.

ANDERSON, J: Parker. Bibliography. (Pages i-xii in Blackie, J: Stuart, Life of R: Burns, L., 1888, 16°.)

ANNUAIRE des bibliothèques et des archives pour 1888, pub. sous les auspices du Min. de l'Instruc. Pub. Paris. 212 p. 8°.

Orazio Bacci appends to his Considerazione sopra le rime del Petrarca di Alessandro Tassona a good bibliography of the letters of Tassoni edited and inedited. — *Nation*.

BRAMBACH, W. Psalterium; bibliographischer Versuch über die liturgischen Bücher des christlichen Abendlandes. Berlin, A. Asher & Co., 1887. 3 l. + 56 p. O.

With another title-page: Sammlung bibliothekwissenschaftlichen Arbeiten, hrsg. v. K. Dziatzko, 1. Heft.

Herr Dziatzko explains that his series is to include treatises on book matters in general and the fate of single noteworthy books or of whole categories of them, also the arrangement and management of collections of books, and the history of important libraries or the life of persons connected with libraries or books, and finally publications from mss. or from rare books.

Herr Brambach in his preface says that there is no bibliographical work in which a layman can inform himself about the composition of church books, and the meaning of their titles, rubrics, abbreviations, and references. The numerous learned writings on Christian archaeology and liturgical history assume in the reader not merely theological knowledge, but also practical experience in priestly work. Moreover they go too little into the bibliography of the original sources of information. Herr Brambach, compelled by the duties of his office to busy himself with the liturgical books of the Romish Church, compiled his notes for his own use in cataloging and publishes them for the service of his brother catalogers.

CATALOGUE mensuel de la librairie française, avec une table par ordre alphab. des noms d'auteur. Année 1887. Paris, 1888. 8° 3.50 fr.

ENGLISH catalog of books for 1887. London, 1888. 8° 5 s.

FISKE, Prof. Willard. Bibliography of Petrarch's De remediis utriusque fortunæ. [Florence,] 1888. 8°. (Bibliog. notices, 3.)

94 nos., "of which by far the majority are in Mr. Fiske's own unrivalled collection. They are thus classified: (1) The Latin text—in the collected works, in independent editions, and in incomplete editions; (2) translations, in no less than nine European languages. Of the translations, it is curious to note that the earliest appeared in Bohemian (1501); and that Mr. Fiske was fortunate enough to acquire 'for an insignificant price' the only known copy of the only Dutch version (1606). We are glad to find that, in his opinion, the English rendering of Thomas Twyne (1579) 'compares most favorably with the versions in other tongues;' and that the typography of Richard Watkins is 'in every way excellent.' It is odd, however, that so skilled a bibliographer should apparently be puzzled by the device on the title-page, which he describes as including a pelican, the letter R, and the 'motto Jugge (?). A pelican was the trade-mark of Richard Jugge, the well-known printer to Queen Elizabeth, who died in 1577. Regarding the unique Spanish translation in the British Museum, dated 1505, Mr. Fiske inclines to the opinion that the date may be a printer's error for 1510, as the two editions differ in no other particular. It is impossi-

ble to praise too highly the painstaking accuracy with which Mr. Fiske has accomplished his labor of love."—*Acad.*, Ap. 7.

FIVE years of fiction and verse. (In *Overland monthly*, Dec. 1887, p. 659-664.)

List of books reviewed in the *Overland* since the beginning of its present series.

FLEMING, W. H. Bibliography of [Shakespeare] first folios in New York City. (In *Shakespeareiana*, v. 5: 102-117, Mr.)

GRISEBACH, E. Editæ und inedita Schopenhaueriana; eine Schopenhauer-Bibliographie. etc. Lpz., 1888. 221 p. 4°. 10 m.

HOFMEISTER, Fr. Handbuch der musikalischen Literatur; Verzeichniss d. i. deutschen Reiche, u. s. w. ersch. Musikalien, auch musikal. Schriften, Abbild. und plast. Darstellungen. In alphab. Ordnung m. system. geord. Uebersicht. Bd. 9, oder 6. Ergänzungsbd., 1880-85. Lpz., Hofmeister, 1888. 773+198 p. 4°. 18 m., on writing paper 22.50 m.

JAMES F. HUNNEWELL in his *Century of town life, a history of Charlestown, Mass., 1775-1887*, Boston, Little, Brown & Co., 1888, 316 p., O., fills pages 261-300 with additions to his "Bibliography of Charlestown and Bunker Hill, Boston, J. R. Osgood & Co., 1880," 8°.

JACOB, Curt. Verzeichniss der Sammlung v. Büchern üb. Torgau. Torgau, Jacob, 1888. 54 p. 8°. 1.50 m.

JACOBS, Joseph, and WOLF, Lucien. Bibliotheca Anglo-Judaica; a bibliog. guide to Anglo-Jewish history. London, Jewish Chronicle Office, 1888. 231 p. 8°. (Pub. of the Anglo-Jewish Hist. Exhib., no. 3.)

KNAPP, Arthur Mason. The Barton Shakespeare library. (*Shakespeareiana*, Ap., p. 149-153.)

LAMBERT, Lieut.-Col. Sir Robert. Bibliography of Algeria. (Part 2, pp. 127-430, of v. 2 of ROY, GEOG. SOC. Suppl. papers, London, 1888.)

4745 nos., arranged chronologically from 1511-1887, with two indexes, one of subjects, one of authors.

LANG, Andrew (ed.). Ballads of books. Longmans, Lond., 1888. 178 p. 12°. 6 s.

This collection is a recast of the volume published (Coombes, N. Y., 1887) under the same title, edited by Brander Matthews. Mr. Lang has rearranged the poems by the dates of their authors, has omitted some of the pieces, but retained all that were written expressly for Mr. Matthews's book, and has added some translations from Martial, and the Swedish, and a few others. A full list of the contents is given in *Notes on books*, Feb. 29, p. 172.

Bélisaire LEDAM's *Epigraphie romaine de Portou, Poitiers*, 1887, 93 p. 8°, contains a bibliography.

Of LEFÈVRE-PORTALIS's *Bibliographie des sociétés savantes de la France* (see Lib. jnl., 12:568) the *Nation* says: "From the preface we learn that there are no less than 655 societies of various kinds, exclusive of the numerous associations for the encouragement of agriculture and horticulture, which are omitted, in 197 cities of France. Paris naturally takes the lead, 142 literary, artistic, or scientific associations holding their meetings in that city. There are 12 additional societies in the French colonies. The publications of all, to the end of 1886, number about 15,000 volumes, and the present annual increase to this literature the author estimates as something like 500 volumes. An examination of the catalogue shows that the Paris societies alone have issued more than 4700 volumes. The greater part of the institutions enumerated have come into existence in the fifty years between 1830 and 1880, but not a few of them are of considerable antiquity, no less than six dating from the 17th century.

"This catalogue seems to be a most conscientious piece of work. Very few entries are to be discovered in which the facts aimed to be supplied are not fully and clearly set out. Care has been taken to indicate all indexes to series or parts of series of society publications, whether such indexes are separate volumes or are contained in certain volumes of the series. The peculiar arrangement of the work — primarily an alphabet of the departments of France, and under each name of a department a sub-alphabet of the towns in which societies are located — is not entirely the most convenient for a foreigner not thoroughly familiar with the geography of France, and it would have been an aid to the latter had there been added an alphabetical index of the names of the societies."

LE SOUDIER, H. *Catalogue-tarif à prix forts et nets des journaux, revues, et publications périodiques parus à Paris jusqu'en déc. 1887, suivi d'une table systématique et du tarif postal pour la France et l'Etranger.* Paris, 1888. 258 p. 8°.

OCCIONI-BONAFFONS, Gius. *Bibliografia storica Friulana, 1861-85.* Vol. 2. Udine, 1887. 17+275 p. 8°. 4 l.

RUSCHENBERGER, W. S. W. *List of biographical notices of fellows and associates;* Nov. 1887. (Pages 292-304 of his account of the institution and progress of the College of Physicians of Phila. from Jan. 1787. Phila., 1887. 8°.)

SILVA, J. Fr. da. *Dicionario bibliographico portuguez; estudos applicaveis a Portugal e ao Brazil, continuados e ampliados por B. Aranha.* Tomo 14. Lisboa, 1887. 431 p. 8°.

SCHUMANN, Prof. Alb. *Aargauische Schriftsteller.* 1. Lieferung. Aarau, Sauerländer, 1888. 8+128 p. 4 fr.

Republished with additions from the *Neuer Anzeiger*, 1876-86. About 6 Lieferungen are promised, but G. Meier thinks that the canton would need nearer 60 than 6.

SOLBERG, Thorvald. Recent copyright literature. (*In Publishers' weekly*, no. 834, p. 47-48.)

TISSANDIER, Gaston. *Bibliographie aéronautique; catalogue de livres d'histoire, de science, de voyages, et de fantaisie, traitant de la navigation aérienne ou des aérostats.* Paris, H. Hachette et Cie., 1887. 63 p. 4°.

WOLF's *Landwirtschaftliches Vademecum. Die Litteratur bis 1888 enthaltend.* Lpz., 1888. 179 p. 8°. 1.25 m.

INDEXES.

DORFIELD, C. *Register zu Band 1-12 der Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und Literatur, hrsg. von H. PAUL u. W. BRAUNE.* Halle, 1888. 61 p. gr. 8°. 1.60 m.

CHAMBOIS, Em. *Table des matières contenues dans les vingt premiers volumes de la REVUE historique et archéologique du Maine.* Marmers, 1888. 63 p. 8°.

2^e *table générale de la REVUE historique, 1881-85.* Paris, 1887. 8°. 3 fr.

"This index is well-nigh perfect as far as it goes, and of course much superior to that example for youth and for age to avoid, the 'Table de la Revue des Deux Mondes'; but we are sorry that M. Couderc was unable to free himself entirely from the vicious practice of almost all Continental indexers, of relying solely on a *table raisonnée* instead of a minute subject-index. Thus the *Table* in question gives, as is essential to a good index, an alphabetical list of authors covering five pages, then a list of articles occupying only two pages), arranged not alphabetically, but chronologically. Following this is the 'bibliographie,' 98 pages long, prepared on the numerical cross-reference system. This is a list, alphabetical by authors, of all works reviewed, each entry being prefixed by a number. This is succeeded by a 'Répertoire méthodique,' under the classified headings of which the preceding titles are referred to. Thus, No. 4810 of the 'bibliographie' is 'Swiedineck, H. von, Die Politik der Republic Venedig während des 30-jährigen Krieges, XXIII, 398,' which is indexed (not under 'Venise' or 'Guerre de Trente ans,' but) as 'Italie, § Venise, Vienne, Padoue, Udine, etc., 4810.' In the same way, there is no alphabetical entry of Sweden or Norway, they being entered only as divisions of the title 'Pays Scandinaves.' Per contra, Alsace is to be found not under Allemagne, but in its alphabetical order, as if it were an independent State. Biographies are not indexed, except in the general way of chronological entry under each country. We have noticed but few errors. Mr. Francis Parkman is not, that we know, of German origin, and does not spell his name with a

double n, and Mr. Henry Adams, not Mr. Herbert B. Adams, is the author of the life of John Randolph, for which, as well as for his own works, the Baltimore professor gets the credit. Prof. W. F. Allen, again, is unlawfully deprived of his first initial, and putting the French name Des Cars under C is contrary to the accepted rule." — *Nation*.

Table générale des matières contenues dans les 15 tomes formant la 2^e série (1871-86) de la SOCIÉTÉ DE L'INDUSTRIE MINÉRALE, suivie d'une table alphab. des auteurs avec l'indication de leurs travaux. Saint-Etienne, 1888. 67 p. 8°.

U. S. STATE DEPARTMENT. Index to the Consular reports, no. 1 to no. 59 (1880-85). Wash., 1888. 8°, 212 p.

"Owing to the constantly increasing demand for these Reports—a demand which has induced the British Foreign Office to start a similar series—this index is likely to be widely useful. It is printed in large type, in one alphabet. Under the name of each consul, printed in small capitals, is a list of the subjects on which he has reported, and the subjects are entered twice, once in the alphabetical place of each, and once under its generic head; e.g., 'Arlberg Tunnel' is entered under Arlberg and under Tunnels. Errors are very rare. 'Würtemberg' we find spelled both 'Wurtemberg,' and 'Wurttemberg,' and the name of the late Wm. Wirt Sikes, sometime Consul at Cardiff, is tortured into 'Sykes, Wm. Writ.'" — *Nation*.

Should sufficient subscriptions be received, it is proposed to publish at once an Index of ENGINEERING articles contained during 1883-7 inclusive in *Engineering News*; *Iron Age*; *Mechanics*; *American Engineer*; *Sanitary Engineer*; *Eng. and Building Record*; *Railroad Gazette*; *Van Nostrand's*; *Railroad and Eng. Journal*; *Journal of Franklin Institute*; *Street Railway Gazette*; *Electrician*; *Electrical Review*; *Electrical World*; *Scientific American Sup.*; *The Locomotive*; *Society of Arts Proceedings*; *Engineering* (London); *The Engineer* (London).

The work, which is now ready for the press, contains upwards of 10,000 carefully selected references, arranged in a single alphabetical index by subjects, covering information now only to be extracted by the aid of some 150 different indices, and is designed to make accessible to engineers in all branches of the profession, to special investigators, librarians, editors, and others, such information, without loss of time.

The book will be an octavo of about 250 pages, size 5½ x 8 inches, cloth bound, and will be sold at \$2 per copy. As soon as enough subscriptions are received, and the book is ready for delivery, a notification will be given and the copies sent by mail, postage paid, on receipt of price.

FRANCIS E. GALLOUPE, M.E.,
30 Kilby St., Boston.

MAY 10, 1888.

Anonymous and Pseudonyms.

The Biddy Club, A. C. McClurg & Co., is by Mrs. Arthur W. Worthington, of Minneapolis.

Captain Siden, ps. of Denis Vairasse (d'Alais en Languedoc), in "History of the Sevarites or Severambi," a nation inhabiting part of the third continent; . . . [preface signed D. V.]. Lond., 1675-79." 2 v. in 1, 16." — *C. A. N.*

Dorothy Thorne is by Mrs. Julia Michael Parsons. — *F. M. C.*

Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, author of "Plain directions for accidents, 1875," is Alexis Paul Turner, M.D. — *C. A. N.*

Full stature of a man is by Mrs. Julia Michael Parsons. — *F. M. C.*

G. H. P., signed to the Preface of "Prose masterpieces from modern essayists," stands for G. Haven Putnam. — *G. H. P.*

Gregory Seaworthy, ps. In "Lynde Weiss, an autobiography, Phil., 1873," the author's name is given as G. H. Throop. Mr. Cushing seems to be in error in giving James Gregory. — *C. A. N.*

H. D. G., signed to article on "Martin Van Buren" in *Nat. port. gallery*, v. 3, 1836. Are not these probably the initials of Henry Dilworth Gilpin, of Philadelphia? — *C. A. N.*

Hodg Turhervil, ps. of Edmund Gayton, b. 1609, d. 1666, in "Walk, knaves, walk, L., 1659." — *C. A. N.*

Memorial of John, Henry, and Richard Townsend and their descendants, N. Y., 1865, was compiled by the late Mrs. Charlotte Aurelia (Winder) Townsend, wife of Dr. James C. Townsend, of Oyster Bay, L. I. — *C. A. N.*

Miss Varian of New York, Dillingham, 1887, was written by Miss Dainty.

The money-makers, a social parable, N. Y., Appleton, 1885, is by H. F. Keenan. — *A presentation copy*.

*S.****, author of "The two or three millions; no appropriation recommended, 1847," is Orazio de Attellis Santangelo. — *C. A. N.*

Some inquiries concerning human sacrifices among the Romans, Providence, 1878, is by Thatcher Thayer, D.D., of Newport, R. I. — *C. A. N.*

CORRECTION.

C. H. W. (W. coming last) is the ps. of Heman White Chapin in "Five hundred dollars and other stories of N. E. life." So we printed in our last number, but the name should be "Chaplin," not Chapin. In his case literary talent is hereditary. His grandfather was President Chaplin, of Waterbury College, Me., now Colby University; his father, Jeremiah Chaplin, D.D., was a clergyman and author; his mother was a well-known writer for religious journals, and the author of several "juveniles;" and his sister (now the wife of a Reformed Church minister) was the author of a popular number of Roberts Brothers' *No Name* series, "The Colonel's Opera Cloak."

Humors and Blunders.

A borrower has just inquired at the delivery-desk for "Ben-She." — *Milwaukee*.

From a New York auction catalog:
490 Paris a L'Eau. — Forte Actualite. — Curiosite-Fantasia. Illustrated with Etchings.

From a Philadelphia old book catalog:
163 Rousseau (J. J.) Les Confessions de Vignettes, par Jahannot, etc. Paris, 1846. \$5.00.

From a Boston auctioneer's catalog:
1876 English Statues. Anno Regni, Georgii Regis. pp. 91-567. Folio, unbound. London, 1720.

The Gentlemen's magazine, reviewing "Sobriquets and nicknames," says: "To scholars Mr. Frey is known as the librarian of the Astor House Library, New York."

Two questions and answers in an Essex County (Mass.) high school:

Q. Who was the first novelist? A. Dryden.

Q. What was Edmund Spenser's greatest work? A. Airy Fairy Lilian.

Good news for Mr. Hild. The preface to a lately published list of additions to an English library speaks of "Mr. Poole, the Principal Librarian of the Public Library at Chicago," who "will soon have the gratification of laying out upon his library a munificent donation of \$3,000,000," and adds in a note, "Mr. Poole has since retired. The pleasing task of laying out this splendid gift will therefore fall to his successor."

Librarian (to assistant who has made an extraordinary subject-heading for Whateley's "Elements of logic"): If you were not thinking anything about cataloging the book and some one should ask you what it was about, what would you answer?

Assistant. Logic, to be sure.

Librarian. Yes, and that is the subject-heading for your book.

Assistant. Oh! I didn't know we had to find out what the book is about.

One is surprised to find the following break-out of library blundering in such a place as the editorial columns of the Chicago Herald. Speaking of the librarians who attended the convention of 1853 it says "only two are living to-day — one Prof. Giles [Guild], of Brown University; the other Librarian Poole of Chicago." . . . "At Harvard there is Justin Winsor [Winsor]; he has been at the head of the university library for twenty years." It also refers to "the famous Dr. Cosgrove [Cogswell], who originally arranged the Astor collection," and to "Dr. H. A. Holmes [Homes], of the State library, at Albany."

We have had inquiries at our delivery desk for the following: (By an Englishman) "Av' you Ipatia or Halton Locke?" (On lists handed in) "Sons and Daughters of Dr. Cupid." "A Nobel name." "once a Gain." "By Womans Witt." "The Sane Idiot" (A Sane Lunatic, by Burnham, was what they wanted). "The Haymakers of Florence." "The Vixon." "Barbra." "V. X. Y. Q."

("X. Y. Z." by Anna K. Green). "Scottish Chieftains" (a boy was the applicant for this last). Occasionally the subscribers have the best of us. One of our young lady attendants who had only been in the library a short time was asked for "Birds of prey" by Braddon. After hunting the catalogue, she reported to the gentleman who asked for it that "We had quite a number of books on birds, but none that treated especially on birds of prey." * * *

An old joke has been lately worked up as follows: A reporter chanced to be standing beside the delivery desk of one of the city libraries when a well-dressed lady of 30 approached the desk. The librarian was cutting the leaves of a new copy of the "Last Days of Pompeii," every now and then stopping to read a passage from the famous novel. The lady glanced around listlessly and said: "I would like to find something new in the way of nice reading. Nothing very strong, you know, something light and amusing. That is a nice-looking book you have there. What is it?"

"It is the 'Last Days of Pompeii.'"

"'Last Days of Pompeii,' Pompeii—Pompeii—who was Pompeii? What did he die of? I never could bear tragedy."

"I believe he died of an eruption. Yes, this is rather tragical," replied the librarian with the faintest smile imaginable. The lady departed after securing something "light and amusing," and without the slightest idea that she had furnished any amusement. — *Rochester Post-Express*.

We have had a number of queer demands lately. A girl wants a book on the "Value of things which cost nothing;" another asks for a work on "The power of early impressions;" and still another requires a book that will tell something about "Now." A woman asks to see a copy of "The pilgrim's progress." Having received the book, she examined it with some care and then exclaimed to the attendant: "I've got one of these books but the print's kind of poor, I don't suppose you'd want to swap, would you?" — *C. H. B.*

Private Libraries.

TALMAGE, Rev. T. De Witt, has his study on the second floor of his Brooklyn home. It has plenty of sunlight, but other than that is not an attractive place. The floor is of bare hard wood, and the walls are dead white. A big table is drawn up by the window, and on this are strewn letters, newspapers, books, paper, pens, and all the usual litter of a man who writes. A stiff-backed cushionless chair stands by the table. Around the walls are rows of book-shelves and files of newspapers. "My workshop" Dr. Talmage calls it, and the workshop of a hard-working man it is. — *Harper's weekly*.

A library recently finished has book-shelves running about its four walls to the height of four feet. Above them a fine effect is obtained by the use of Lincrusta-Walton in dark brown colors to within eighteen inches of the ceiling, the frieze being in lighter tints and resembling carved wood.

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